FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MARCH 1986

Libyan-U.S. Clash in Gulf of Sidra

Libya will continue its "brave opposition" to the United States and will consider any U.S. target as "hostile," the People's committee of the Foreign Liaison Bureau told foreign ambassadors in a statement reported by JANA. The committee accused the United States of endangering peace and security by firing missiles "toward libyan territory and from inside Libyan territorial waters." Monitored Libyan media have provided no further details of the results of U.S. attacks except for JANA's claim, cited by Tripoli radio and television, that the rocket shelling of the suburbs of surt caused no damage. The television also broadcast Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's statement in a telephone conversation with the YAR president that Arab support for Libya shows that the Americans "cannot deal with every part of the Arab nation individually." One of Al-Qadhdhafi's close aides told a French radio station that "the entire Arab nation backs Libya" and that the U.S. "aggression" will result in reprisals against U.S. interests, either in the Arab world or elsewhere, according to AFP.

Meanwhile, the Arab League Council expressed "absolute backing" for Libya in a statement reported by KUNA, urging the Arab states to assist Libya to repel the U.S. attacks and calling on the United States to immediately cease all military operations against Libya. The foreign ministers also called for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the grave situation in the Mediterranean. Among other expressions of Arab support for Libya, Moroccan King Hassan II declared "full solidarity" in a cable to Al-Qadhdhafi broadcast by Rabat radio, adding that Morocco will do "everything necessary" to help safeguard Libya's "integrity." An Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Algiers radio likewise reaffirmed his country's support for Libya "in defense of the sanctity of its sovereignty" and denounced the U.S. use of force as "unacceptable." Syria confirmed its "complete solidarity" with Libya in an official statement carried by Damascus television, which also noted that Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to damascus with a reply message from Col al-Qadhdhafi for the Syrian president. Meanwhile, Al-Qadhdhafi discussed the Gulf of Sidra situation in a telephone conversation with Saudi King Fahd, Jeddah radio noted. The radio did not confirm Tripoli television's contention that Fahd expressed support for Libya. In another development, the Sudanese Army chief of staff stated Sudan's support for Libya against the U.S. "aggression" during a meeting with the Libyan Armed Forces commander in Tripoli, according to JANA. For Egypt's part, a Foreign Ministry statement carried by MENA expressed concern over the situation in the Gulf of Sidra, calling for self-restraint and an end to acts of violence.

As for the Palestinians, the PLO issued a statement in Tunis expressing "full solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people" in the face of the U.S. "imperialist onslaught," KUNA reported. An official spokesman for Sabri al-Banna's group, Fatah-the Revolutionary council, warned in a statement reported by JANA that his organization will henceforth target all American "imperialist interests" wherever they are.

In contrast, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry welcomed the U.S. military action against Libya in announcements reported by IDF radio, which pointed out that the U.S. pilots' experience against SAM-5's will be of interest to Israel.

Lebanon

A booby-trapped car exploded in the al-Ashrafiyah area of east Beirut 26 March causing more than 30 casualties, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force carried out a "devastating" raid against Iran's Moshk camp early 26 March, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, the commander of Iran's Revolution Guards Corps called on Iranians to get more involved in the war effort, advising them to ignore "vast foreign propaganda for blunting mass fervor and dampening the public enthusiasm," according to IRNA. Tehran radio broadcast an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement accusing Iraq of renewed chemical weapons attacks in the Al-Faw area over the past 2 days and warning that unless the attacks are stopped, Iran will be "unwillingly forced to adopt other methods to defend itself and stop this dangerous act." In other developments, the Arab League Council in a statement reported by KUNA condemned Iran's occupation of Iraqi territory and expressed concern over "the Iranian threat to the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Arab Gulf states." The statement was issued "against Syrian and Libyan reservations," KUNA added.

Morocco-SDAR

Eight Moroccan soldiers were killed in two attacks by Polisario forces north of Amgala 20 March, Algiers radio reported, citing an SDAR Information Ministry Communique.

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Activities of Arab League Council Meeting Reported

Council Discusses Syria-Iran Coordination

LD251634 KUWAIT KUNA in English 1502 GMT 25 Mar 86

[by Nabil al-Baradie]

[Text] Tunis, March 25 (KUNA) — A seven-man Arab League committee Tuesday [25 March] concluded an in-camera meeting allocated to discussions of issues on agenda of the ordinary 85th session of the Arab League Council currently in session here.

The Council then resumed sitting behind closed doors with only chief delegates and permament representatives at the league attending.

The seven-member committee groups foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria in addition to Algerian health minister.

Diplomatic source told KUNA that the morning session witnessed debates on the importance of holding an urgent Arab summit conference and implementing the joint Arab defense pact.

Meanwhile, a well informed source told KUNA that a number of chief delegates had frankly touched on Syrian-Iranian coordination at a time when Iranian forces are invading Iraqi territory.

The source said that the Syrian foreign minister reported that his government was making use of relations with Iran as a "security valve preventing the Tehran government from trying to invade other countries in the Arab Gulf region."

He explained that when the Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister asked for implementation of the joint Arab defense pact and the Arab League Charter, the head of the PLO Political Department took the stand affirming that the issue in question is much greater than that. "It is an issue of a pan-Arab commitment because the ongoing war at the eastern gate of the Arab nation aims at creating a more dangerous Israel," he elaborated.

Other members of the attending delegations will later tonight join the chief delegates in an expanded meeting to discuss the agenda after its endorsement and inclusion of the American aggression against Libya.

Confirms 'Solidarity' With Libya

LD260005 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] This evening, the Arab League Council called on the United States to immediately halt any further military action against Libya. The statement, issued by the Arab foreign ministers, said that the Council has decided to ask the Security Council to meet to discuss the dangerous situation arising from the U.S. aggression against Libya. The statement, which was approved unanimously, confirmed full solidarity with Libya. It also denounced the [word indistinct] U.S. aggression and called on the Arab countries to provide Libya with assistance to confront it.

Calls for U.S. Fleet Withdrawal

LD260918 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tunis, March 26 (KUNA) — The Arab League Council starts its third day of deliberation Wednesday morning after having strongly condemned Iranian occupation of Iraqi territory, Iranian [word indistinct] against non-belligerent Gulf states and American aggression against Libya.

A Council statement, adopted last night against Syrian and Libyan reservations, expressed "member states' all-out solidarity with Iraq in its legitimate defense of national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity."

The Council voiced "profound anxiety over continuation of Iranian aggression and occupation of Iraqi territories and (Tehran's) persisting rejection of all international initiatives, calls and resolutions urging cessation of aggression and advising a peaceful settlement to the conflict on the basis of international law."

The statement, also expressed deep concern over "the Iranian threat to the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab Gulf states and the perilous situation stemming from a fresh Iranian thrust into ... Iraq."

The Council, "considering itself in continuous session to follow up the developments, has commissioned League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to prepare a [word indistinct] on the war developments for taking the appropriate measures to tackle the situation."

As regards the American attacks on libya, the Council said in a separate statement that "continuation of this flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Libya (?territories) represents a threat to the safety and security of Arab countries and the world at large."

The unanimous resolution said "the U.S. would have to bear the full responsibility for any dangers arising from this aggression."

The Council, voicing "absolute backing for Libya against the ferocious aggression of the U.S. Administration," urged Arab countries to extend assistance to Libya, each according to his means, to repel the American attacks.

The statement called on the U.S. Government to "immediately cease aggression and all military operations against Libya and withdraw its fleets from the (Mediterranean) area." The Council, after deciding itself in permanent session, called on Arab countries to summon a Security Council meeting to discuss the grave situation in the Mediterranean. The Council also decided to launch an international campaign to highlight the instability and insecurity in the Mediterranean following the American provocations.

Libyan Official on Arab Support

LD251653 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1507 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (KUNA) — An important Libyan offiical expressed here today his belief that Arabs "will surely stand like one man by the side the Libyan Jamahiriyah and toward the latest U.S. aggression against it." He did not, however, deny or confirm the possibility of his country asking the Arab League Council currently convened in the Tunis to implement the clauses of the Joint Arab Defense Treaty vis-a-vis the U.S. aggression.

The deputy secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, Amran Hamudah, denied, when he answered a question put to him in a press conference, which he held on the fringes of the 85th regular session of the Arab League Ministerial Council being currently being held here, that his country had asked Morocco to mediate in order to lessen the tension between it and the United States.

He said that the visit of the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, Kamil al-Mansur, to Rabat had nothing to do with the U.S. aggression; it was, however, within the framework of consultation between the two countries, which are linked by the Afrab-African Union.

In answering a question on whether there was any timing between the U.S. aggression against the Gulf of Sidra and the start of the meeting of the Arab League Council, which was scheduled to discuss the Iraq-Iran war, in order to divert attention from what it is going on currently in the Arabian Gulf, Mr. Hamudah said: "The timing of the U.S. aggression against Libya clearly indicates U.S. arrogance and its disrespect for the Arab nation: While the Arab League Council is meeting, the United States has carried out this attack in order to show contempt for the Arab consensus."

In answering a question on whether his country will ask for the implementation of the Joint Arab Defense Treaty toward the U.S. aggression against its territories Mr. Hamudah said "The Arab world has witnessed several events, like the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon etc...Arab countries did not, however, ask for the implementation of such a treaty." He added: "We, as Arabs, have the same fate...No doubt the Arabs will certainly stand as one man by the side of the Jamahiriyah in the face of the U.S. aggression."

When he was asked whether the subject of the aforementioned U.S. aggression would be put forward before the current session of the Arab League Council, Mr. Hamudah said: "You do remember that the Council, during its latest emergency meeting, decided that it would remain in constant and permanent meeting to follow up the U.S. aggression against Libya...and thereby should think that the Arab League Council will discuss this matter during the current session."

PLO Condemns U.S. Moves Against Libya

LD251526 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (KUNA) — The PLO today condemned the latest U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah and considered it "a continuation for the U.S. policy [word indistinct] against the Arab peoples, particularly the Palestinian people."

The official spokesman of the PLO's Political Department said in a statement, which had been prepared in advance and circulated (in Tunis) to the journalists, that the U.S. attack against the Jamahiriyah is "an overt aggressive action which it has, overtly and for a long time, been preparing for through the U.S. military maneuvers being staged by the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Gulf of Sidra."

The statement stressed that such an attack "constitutes a flagrant violation of all international laws and norms and epitomizes the anti-Arab nation U.S.-Israeli alliance and the implementation of the policies of hegemony and domination which the United States has been seeking to impose on the peoples of the region in order to subjugate them and sneak in its hostile schemes."

The PLO expressed "its full solidarity with the fraternal Libyan Arab people." It called "upon all Arab citizens to resolutely stand against this imperialist onslaught and beside their brothers in the Arab Jamahiriyah."

Palestinians Threaten 'Revenge' on U.S.

JN251842 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0145 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian organizations here expressed their support for Libya. We received statements from [PFLP leader] Dr George Habash, the uprising Fatah movement, and the Palestine National Salvation Front condemning the U.S. actions and threatening to take revenge on U.S. interests in the region.

Abu Nidal Group Targets U.S. Interests

NC252156 Paris AFP in English 2129 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, March 25 (AFP) — The Fatah Revolutionary Council headed by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] warned here Tuesday that it now considered all U.S. interests as legitimate targets for attack by its "revolutionaries"

FRC spokesman 'Atif Abu Bakr, in a statement distributed here, said that the movement was making available to Libya all its potential to counter the "well organised international terrorist" attack on Libya.

The statement called on all groups within the Palestinian movement as well as Arab liberation movements and Arab nationalist governments to destroy "the imperialist presence and interests."

Council Condemns Iranian Aggression

LD252333 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2235 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tunis 25 Mar (SPA) — The Arab League Council has condemned strongly the Iranian armed aggression against Iraq, its security, and territorial integrity. It also has condemned the Iranian threat to the Arab Gulf and reiterated the full solidarity of member states with Iraq in its legitimate defense of its sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

The Council has decided to continue its meeting to follow up the development of the situation, and asked the secretary general of the league to present a report on it, in order to take the necessary measures to deal with the situation.

The Council unanimously agreed about this decision, while Syria and Libya expressed reservations.

'Aziz Meets Jordanian, Bahraini Ministers in Tunis

JN241328 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nar 86

[Text] Tunis — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri in Tunis last night. He also met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah. During the two meetings, they reviewed the current Arab situation and ways to bolster joint Arab action.

With Tunisian, Kuwaiti Counterparts

JN241439 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1351 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Tunis, 24 (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Beji Caid Es-sebsi, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs. Talks dealt with the latest Iraq-Iran war developments and bilateral cooperation in various areas, in addition to ways of bolstering joint Arab action.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir and discussed with him the current Arab situation.

With Tunisian Prime Minister

JN252014 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Tunis, 25 Mar (INA) — Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali met here today with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Following the meeting, 'Aziz said he briefed Mzali on the situation at the battlefront and Iraq's ability to crush aggression and expel invaders from Iraqi iews on their close bilateral relations, the current Arab situation, and the topics being discussed during the current Arab League Council session.

'Arafat on Relations With Jordan, Syria, Lebanon

JN251833 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA) — Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has reiterated his rejection of Security Council Resolution 242 because it deals with the Palestinian people as refugees. In a prolonged statement to the Sudanese paper *AL SAHAFAH* during his recent visit to Sudan, 'Arafat asserted that armed Palestinian struggle will not stop. He added that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle as the Vietnamese struggle continued during the Paris talks and as the Algerian struggle continued during the first and second (Evian) talks.

On the Jordanian stand and the (?secret) talks related to the international conference, Yasir 'Arafat said that the Jordanian monarch King Husayn represented an indirect channel between the Palestinians and the Americans. He said: Washington insisted that the PLO should recognize Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and stop armed struggle during the proposed international conference as a condition for participating in the conference. 'Arafat said that armed struggle will continue and that the Palestinians will continue to reject 242 because they are not refugees.

'Arafat told the Sudanese paper that contacts have been held and are being held these days between Damascus and the PLO to improve relations and normalize them again. 'Arafat said that in these talks the PLO had conveyed its opinion to its Syrian brothers and the Syrians had conveyed their opinion. He said: Despite the fact that no tangible results have yet appeared, we decided in the PNC to stop all propaganda campaigns. We in the PLO adhere to this decision although the Syrian side still announces some (?hostile) media stands every now and then.

With regard to the situation in Lebanon as well as the fighting and destruction, the Palestinian leader praised the Palestinian people's steadfastness in confronting the plots concocted in the Lebanese arena to annihilate them. 'Arafat accused a number of parties in this regard, including Israel and the Shi'ite Amal movement, which, as 'Arafat said, is working to (?annihilate) his people in their steadfast camps with the support of some Arab organs. 'Arafat also addressed a special greeting to the Lebanese leader Walid Junblatt, who is facing a plot there to balkanize Arab Lebanon, as 'Arafat said. 'Arafat praised the existing Lebanese-Palestinian cohesion and coordination reinforced by Junblatt. He said that this had resulted in the return of armed struggle against the Israeli presence in southern Lebanon.

'Arafat was asked about the reason for this surprising visit to Khartoum. He said that the visit was being paid at this time to assert the stand of the Palestinian people and the PLO alongside and in support of the Sudanese people in confronting the new plot concocted against them in the south. 'Arafat affirmed that the PLO places all its political and nonpolitical resources at the disposal of Sudan. He expressed hope that peaceful efforts will succeed in stopping the rebellion in the south [words indistinct].

Fatah-Syrian Talks Said To Bear Fruit

GF241419 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Mar 86 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Damascus — A top Palestinian source in Damascus stated yesterday that the exchanges that have taken place over the past few days between security and political officials of the Syrian Government and the Fatah Central Committee in Berlin and Nicosia have resulted in the release of a number of leaders and members of Fatah, which is led by Yasir 'Arafat. They had been arrested on various charges. The exchanges also resulted in a halt to the propaganda campaigns between the two sides.

In a statement to *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, the source indicated that the Palestinian side pledged not to stand against the Syrian solution in Lebanon, that is, to facilitate the Syrian role in

Lebanon after the evidence that the U.S. Administration and Israel are diligently working to impair the Syrian role in Lebanon designed to bring about a solution satisfactory to everybody.

Within this context, the Palestinian side, led by Abu al-Hawl, [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] head of the revolution's security, pledged that Fatah — as a result of a decision by its Central Committee — will not undertake to oppose any Syrian solution in Lebanon. The two sides agreed to continue their dialogue in the future for the sake of higher national and pan-Arab interests.

Reportage on PLO Anti-Israeli Operations

Charges Detonated Near Tel Aviv

JN211814 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] A spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces General Command has stated the following: One of our groups of fighters operating inside the occupied homeland planted a number of timed explosive charges inside a Zionist enemy center in Kafr Saba north of Tel Aviv. The Palestinian charges exploded this morning, heavily damaging the center and killing or wounding a large number of enemy personnel. The occupation forces cordoned off the area, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of being involved in the operation. After carrying out its mission, our group successfully withdrew from the scene. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces General Command.

Joint Forces Attack Lahd Patrol

JN221817 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] A group belonging to the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces attacked a patrol belonging to the militias of the agent army of southern Lebanon near the village of Bint Jubayl last night. The attack, carried out with machineguns and hand grenades, killed or wounded all the agent patrol's personnel.

A statement distributed by the joint forces command in the city of Sidon last night said that the attack, in which missiles were also used, damaged a vehicle belonging to Antoine Lahd's agent militias.

4 Fatah Members Killed

JN211920 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The Palestinian Fatah movement has announced the death of four of its members who were part of a commando group which tried to infiltrate into Israel at dawn today. They were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol after the Palestinian commandos had succeeded in capturing four Israeli soldiers who were also killed in the clash. This came in a statement issued in Sidon, southern Lebanon today. The statement carried the PLO's emblem and the signature of the Palestine National Liberation Army-southern command.

The statement indicated that the commando group, which was named after martyr Fahd al-Qawasimah, was planning to attack an Israeli Army position in the settlement of Zar'it in northern Israel. It added that the rest of the Palestinian commandos managed to return safely to base.

In another development, informed Palestinian sources told AFP that the supporters of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat have returned to the 'Ayn al-Hulway and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah refugee camps near Sidon despite the major official presence there of anti-'Arafat and pro-Syrian Palestinian organizations. These sources emphasized that 'Arafat's supporters have recently returned in large numbers to three camps in the Tyre area. They also intensified their presence in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps in West Beirut.

Military Warehouses Destroyed

JN251923 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1718 GMT 25 Mr 86

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command has stated the following:

Our heroes from the martyr Salamah al-Asmar group operating inside the occuied homeland have managed to pass by all the enemy's security barriers and to place an explosive charge inside a military bakery and its warehouses in the industrial zone in the Betah Tiwa area. The explosive charge went off yesterday morning on 24 March 1986, destroying the bakery and the warehouses despite the Zionist firemen's attempt to control the fire and prevent it from reaching nearby factories. Our revolutionaries returned safely to their bases. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces General Command

The military spokesman also stated the following:

One of our revolutionaries from special group "A" has attacked a Zionist soldier with a knife. He managed to stab the soldier, seriously wounding him, and seize his infantry weapon. Our revolutionary returned safely to his base. A large force from the police and the border guard rushed to the area and besieged it. The search operations continued up to the preparation of this statement at 1100 the day before yesterday on 24 March. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command

Joint Forces Attack Positions

JN251949 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1718 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The men of the Palestinian-nationalist Lebanese joint forces yesterday launched a katyusha rocket attack against the settlement of Yizre'el in the northern part of occupied Palestine in retaliation for the Zionist occupation forces' shelling of the

City of Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. A statement issued by the joint forces says that three were killed and five were wounded in the ranks of the Zionist occupation forces and the militias of the so-called Army of southern Lebanon. The occupation forces and their agent militias shelled the city of Nabatiyah and three other villages in southern Lebanon yesterday. Three civilians were killed and 30 others were wounded. The shops and the schools closed as a result of the shelling.

BAHRAIN

Paper Terms U.S. 'Aggression' Predetermined

GF260754 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Manama, 26 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* today comments on the U.S. aggression against Libya. The paper notes that no matter how numerous the alleged U.S. reasons for launching hostile aggression against Libya, the truth is that this cannot be separated from the framework of conspiracies and attacks directed at every part of the Arab world.

The paper adds that all indications point to the fact that the current U.S. aggression against Libya is a predetermined aggression, the plans for which were mapped out in the Pentagon a long time ago, and for which the United States has mobilized immense naval and air power, the likes of which can only be mobilized by a superpower. The paper affirms that the United States is not expected to halt its aggression against a spot which it has placed within its plan for hegemony before proceeding far in its attempt to fulfill a goal represented by its desire to make Libya and its Government submit to Washington.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ urges the Arab countries to unite in order to confront any external aggression from any party whatsoever. It says that if the current state of division in the Arab world continues and if what has so far happened is not sufficient to restore reason to the abstracted Arab minds, then aggressions will be directed at the Arab countries a second and a third time, one country after the other, until they are subjugated to ambitious external powers.

Paper Cites Reaction to U.S., Libya Conflict

GF260550 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 26 Mar 86 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Libya last night vowed to fight back against American "terrorism" as fresh clashes were reported between the two countries in the Mediterranean.

Gulf-based diplomats were generally keeping a low profile over the affairs.

A string of embassies in Manama declined to comment on the developments, but the Soviet Embassy in Kuwait was swift to attack the U.S.

"We consider their action will aggravate the whole situation in the Middle East and in the world generally," said a senior diplomat at the embassy.

He described the U.S. action as "irresponsible."

Bahrain-based French ambassador, Pierre Justinard, whose country has brushed with Libyan-backed forces in Chad, said he could offer no comment.

The British Embassy spokesman referred queries to the Foreign Office in London, and Indian and PLO representatives declined to discuss the crisis.

Libyan diplomatic missions in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia were apparently unmanned.

A senior Bahrain Foreign Ministry official, Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Faris Al Khalifah, the head of administration, said the island would not comment.

KUWAIT

Oil Minister Returns From Geneva OPEC Meeting

LD260808 Kuwait KUNA in English 2001 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, March 25 (KUNA) — Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi returned here this evening from Geneva where he attended an extraordinary consultative conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

During marathon talks, extending over full nine days, in the Swiss capital, the 13 OPEC oil ministers failed to reach consensus on means to bring down the organization's current production ceiling of 16 million barrels of crude per day to beyond 15 million mpd, as a step towards stabilizing the world market and oil prices.

The effort, which began March 16, was aimed at propping up price of crude which, over the past three months, has sharply fell on spot markets to below 14 dollars per barrel and at restoring it to the official level of 28 dollars per barrel.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Returns From Tunisia Meeting

GF260758 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Oman today from Tunisia after attending the meetings of the 85th ordinary session of the Arab League Council.

He was received by the Tunisian ambassador to Oman; and ambassador 'Ali ibn 'Abdallah al-Musafir, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

PDRY

U.S. Acts Against Libya Reveal 'Hostile' Policy

GF251413 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The PDRY followed with extreme concern recent developments in the region of the Mediterranean Sea as a result of the serious escalation being practiced by U.S. imperialism against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, represented by the provocative military maneuvers near the Libyan coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. This escalation reached a point where the U.S. Administration carried out a conspicuous hostile military act against the Arab Libyan people and its Armed Forces, who are defending their legitimate rights in the regional waters of the Gulf of Sidra.

The PDRY, while it follows with extreme concern this serious escalation of the provocative and hostile acts to which Libya is being subjected designed to harm Libya's independence and its sovereignty on its territories and its legitimate rights in the regional waters of the Gulf of Sidra, believes that these hostile acts will only lead to serious consequences, not for Libya alone, but for the situation in the region of the Mediterranean Sea.

These acts reveal the nature of the U.S. policy, which is hostile to our Arab people and which is part of the imperialist-Zionist schemes designed against the Arab nationalist and progressive regimes and their people.

The PDRY, while it strongly condemns those hostile acts against Libya, reiterates its solidarity with and support for Libya and the Arab Libyan people, so that they can confront those hostile acts. The PDRY also fully supports all of the measures Libya has adopted to defend its independence and the sovereignty of its territories and to protect its legitimate rights in its regional waters.

QATAR

U.S.-Libyan Conflict Could 'Kindle' New Arab War

GF251418 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Commentary: "The Military Confrontation Between the United States and Libya — Is It a Prelude to a New War in the Arab Arena?"]

[Text] The military confrontation that took place between the United States and Libya in the Gulf of Sidra yesterday has kindled a clash between the two sides the consequences of which are unknown. Political analysts warn that what happened between the U.S. 6th Fleet and the Libyan aircraft and air defenses yesterday will perhaps be a prelude to the kindling of a new war in the Arab region, particularly between Syria and Israel. The following report focuses on events in Libya's Gulf of Sidra.

The events between the United States and Libya in Libya's Gulf of Sidra occurred yesterday when U.S. warships, including 3 aircraft carriers and 240 fighter planes, began maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra opposite the Libyan coast on 23 March. Sources close to the Pentagon admitted that several U.S. warships yesterday crossed what Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi calls "the line of death" at the entrance to the Gulf of Sidra, in what appears to be a test of Libya's determination to defend its territorial waters and its sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra. Libya did not remain silent in the face of the U.S. violation of its sovereignty over its territorial waters. Tripoli radio reported that Libya responded to the encroachment on what it considers Libyan territorial waters and used missiles to shoot down three U.S. aircraft. The White House, however, denied that any U.S. aircraft were downed, but indicated that six Libyan surface-to-air missiles were fired at U.S. ships and aircraft that were carrying out peaceful maneuvers in the international waters and airspace of the Gulf of Sidra — in the words of the White House. The White House stated that in retaliation for the Libyan attack, U.S. aircraft sunk a Libyan gunboat carrying a missile launcher resulting in the death of its 27 crew members, and fired two anti-radar missiles at a SAM-5 missile battery near the Gulf of Sidra on the Libyan coast.

Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, warned that all Libyan forces that approach U.S. units that have since 23 March been carrying out 10-day long maneuvers opposite the Libyan coast will be considered to harbor what he termed as "hostile intentions." Libya responded to the warning by saying that the Libyan masses have joined their battalion and are now ready to move to the Gulf of Sidra and form suicide squads. The Libyan radio stated that the Libyan people do not fear the U.S. fleets however great their power, and reaffirm their determination to turn the waters of the Gulf of Sidra into a sea of blood.

On the diplomatic level, Libya informed the United Nations of the provocations by the U.S. 6th Fleet. Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, strongly protested to Javier Perez de Cuellar over the maneuvers by U.S. warships opposite the Libyan coast. In a message to the UN secretary general, Al-Mansur stated that Libya warns the international community of the gravity of the consequences of the provocative U.S. exercises and finds itself compelled to exercise its right of self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The Soviet stand came in the form of a denunciation of the U.S. stand reported by TASS. TASS said that the action by U.S. aircraft against Libya is an act of piracy that is contrary to international law. It added that the U.S. action is an indivisible part of an extremely dangerous foreign policy and that U.S. President Reagan is violating the special laws of the military decisionmaking act by ignoring the U.S. Congress and without previous consultation with it. Concerning the U.S. Congress itself, most of the congressmen who commented on the events of the Gulf of Sidra have voiced support for the decision of the U.S. President to carry out maneuvers inside the Gulf of Sidra and to violate the Libyan territorial waters under the pretext that the U.S. fleet is conducting maneuvers in international waters. However some U.S. congressmen such as Senator Mark Hatfield, and Patrick Lee have expressed worry over the risk undertaken by President Reagan in the Gulf of Sidra and the possibility of terrorist acts of revenge against the United States.

Although the development of the events between the United States and Libya yesterday seems to be an isolated and limited action for previously determined reasons according to which the United States holds Libya responsible for protecting terrorist groups, some political analysts strongly warn that what is currently happening in the region of the Gulf of Sidra is not totally separated from what is happening in the region of the Middle East, especially the development in the Golan Heights and on the Lebanese fronts. The political analysts refer to the deployment of more than 100 Israeli heavy tanks, and more than 110 armored vehicles including minesweepers in the middle and the western sectors in southern Lebanon. They also refer to the news carried yesterday about the Israeli Army movement in the direction of Jabal al-Shaykh region in the Western parts of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Other sources have mentioned that Syria has amassed about 30 tanks in the narrow sector of the liberated Golan Heights. Meanwhile Israeli officials have stated that the sentence which was included in the recent speech of President Hafiz al-Asad which stated that the Golan Heights will be in the heart of the Syrian territories and not at the edge, indicates Syrian determination not only to liberate the Golan Heights occupied since 1967 and which Israel officially annexed in 1980, but also to liberate parts from the Galile region in northern occupied Palestine.

It remains to say that the Zionist enemy is always — according to our previous experience — exploiting the statements of the Arab leaders to launch a new aggression against the Arab nation. In this regard, what is happening in the Libyan Gulf of Sidra is an act to divert the attention from what could happen in the Golan Heights? The answer will be provided during the next few days.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd, Al-Qadhdhafi Phone Conversation Noted

GF261010 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] SPA has learned that a telephone conversation was held last night between President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to discuss the situation connected with the Gulf of Sidra.

UAE

Oil Minister Returns From Geneva OPEC Meeting

GF251937 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Mar (WAKH) — Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, returned to Abu Dhabi from Geneva this evening after participating in the extraordinary meetings of OPEC.

In a statement upon his arrival carried by WAM, Dr Al-'Utaybah expressed his regret at the stalemate which the OPEC conference has reached. He stated that such a stalemate was reached because a number of countries have not yet apprehended the stage through which the oil industry is passing and its repercussions and impact on the economics of these developing countries.

He noted that these countries had no desire to offer equal sacrifices so the conference reached a deadlock. He expressed hope that further efforts would be exerted to render the upcoming conference successful.

Dr al-'Utaybah warned that the current stage is very critical. He said that oil prices would further decline.

In conclusion, Dr al-'Utaybah asserted the UAE's stand, which is based on full cooperation with OPEC, its member countries, and the non-OPEC oil-producing countries for reaching an appropriate and quick solution to the current situation.

Papers Denounce U.S. 'Aggression' Against Libya

[Editorial report] Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic at 0710 GMT on 26 March carries a 1500-word report on the editorials of five UAE newspapers, all denouncing the U.S. "aggression" against Libya and urging the Arab countries to adopt "an immediate unanimous stand in order to stand alongside Libya vis-a-vis this aggression."

The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* expresses surprise at the silence of some Arab capitals and the reserve observed by other Arab countries concerning this aggression. The paper says: "The Arab nation is required today to move quickly and as one rank in a decisive demonstration against the U.S. aggression. There are numerous practical steps that are capable of halting U.S. excessive arrogance, and what frightens U.S. arrogance is capable of frightening Zionist pride."

The newspaper *AL-BAYAN* affirms that the goal of the U.S. maneuvers is not to test the ability of the U.S. Navy and sophisticated missiles but to escalate the "provocative maneuvers" to the extent of carrying out "an aggression against Libya's sovereignty and its Arab territory." The paper emphasizes Libya's right to confront this aggression and says that the United States must realize that there is unanimous Arab rejection of the "aggression," in addition to the fact that it has been condemned by world public opinion and members of the U.S. Congress.

AL-WAHDAH urges all Arabs to support Libya vis-a-vis the "U.S. aggression and the cowboy policy which is aimed at destroying the spirit of Arab defiance and will". The paper says: "The true face of the United States has been revealed and the U.S. hostility toward all Arabs has become evident." The paper adds: "We must emerge from the circle of denunciation and condemnation to a path of action, and work in a fraternal spirit to respond with all the means that we possess to the barbaric U.S. aggression against Arab Libya."

AL-FAJR says: "If Libya is not the only country at which the U.S. aggression is aimed, then it will be very dangerous to leave Libya to fight the battle alone. A response must come from all the countries at which this aggression is in fact aimed, and from other international powers which cannot possibly accept that the world should be turned into an arena of U.S. hooliganism." The paper points out that the world's support for Egypt during the 1956 aggression against it put an end to the stage of old colonialist hegemony; "what is required now is that the whole world should support Libya as an expression of rejecting the hegemony attempts of the new U.S. colonialism."

AL-KHALIJ extols the Libyan people's resistance before which the value of U.S. missiles, boats, and planes is diminished. The paper says that the United States would not have dared to carry out this aggression if it had expected an Arab response on the level of recalling ambassadors and implementing an economic boycott.

YAR

President Phones Al-Qadhdhafi To Express Support

GF251755 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today telephoned his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1 September Revolution. The former asserted our country's backing for the brothers in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in their defense of their territory, of their legitimate rights, and of their steadfastness in the face of the bestial aggression executed by the forces of the U.S. 6th Fleet against Libyan territory. He also stressed our country's commitment to the provisions of the joint Arab Defense Pact.

Paper on U.S. 'Brutal' Aggression Against Libya

GF260700 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* today comments on the hostile and malicious attitude of the United States toward the Arab nation. The paper affirms that the acts of terrorism and piracy that the United States is carrying out against the fraternal Arab Libyan people is merely an episode in the series of U.S.-Zionist aggression and conspiracy to which the Arab people have grown accustomed.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the latest U.S. military escalation off the Libyan shores in the Gulf of Sidra, the frequent holding of U.S. hostile and provocative military maneuvers, the violation of Libyan airspace by U.S. planes, and the brutal aggression that the U.S. planes carried out by raiding Libyan vessels and Libyan positions in Surt, represents long-harbored hostile and colonialist intentions that take the form of a direct threat not only to the sovereignty and integrity of the territory and waters of the Libyan people, but to the sovereignty, freedom, and independence of the whole Arab homeland, and a flagrant defiance of international conventions and world and human public opinion.

AL-JUMHURIYAH refers to our political leadership's anxiety and concern concerning this serious development, as expressed by the brother leader president through his affirmation to his Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of our country's support for the brothers in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in their defense of their land and their steadfastness vis-a-vis the brutal U.S. aggression carried out by the forces of the U.S. 6th Fleet against Libyan territory.

Egypt Voices Concern Over Gulf of Sidra Incidents

NC261000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — The Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued the following statement today on the situation in the Gulf of Sidra following clashes between the United States and Libya:

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its concern over the deteriorating situation in the Gulf of Sidra, which entails an escalation of tension and the possibility of a confrontation. Egypt calls for self-restraint and for a halt to all tension and acts of violence in the region.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Comment

NC261136 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — Following 2 hours of talks with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Al-Tahirah Palace today, President Mubarak responded to a question on the recent clashes between the United States and Libya. He said: We have issued a statement in this connection. We appeal for self-restraint and hope for an end to the acts of violence. 'Arafat was asked the same question, to which he replied: We oppose this aggression against Libya.

Prime Minister Lutfi Announces Economic Measures

NC260500 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Prime Minister Lutfi presided over a Cabinet meeting this morning. The conferees discussed the government's draft general budget for 1986-87, the comprehensive development plan for the new fiscal year, and the current economic situation.

During the session, the Cabinet approved a series of economic measures, which Dr Lutfi announced at a press conference after the meeting. The conference also was attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. The prime minister denied rumors of price hikes affecting certain basic commodities. He pointed out that the repeated assertions regarding an increase in the cost of gasoline, sugar, and other primary goods are groundless. He added that the measures passed by the Cabinet today are part of a general plan for financial and economic reform, and are not the result of a drop in oil prices.

Dr Lutfi stressed that the policy of the NDP and the government takes account of those with limited incomes. His excellency the prime minister declared that salaries, wages, and raises would not be touched. The Cabinet approved periodic pay raises for all employees, which will take effect on schedule. It also agreed to a special 10-percent bonus for outstanding workers. Lutfi explained that the goal of these steps is to increase social justice.

The decisions that the prime minister made public today may be divided into three groups. The first will be submitted to the NDP's parliamentary representatives for drafting in their final form. They will then be presented to the People's Assembly for passage into law. Among these measures are the gradual imposition of fees on those who own vehicles, particularly large ones, and on those who travel abroad. In addition, laws will be promulgated to remedy the problems of tax evasion and speculation in building lots. Tuition for non-Egyptian students at Egyptian universities and institutions will be increased. However, education for Egyptian pupils will still be free in accordance with the Constitution.

Dr Lutfi also revealed that the telephone company is about to issue some decisions on the rationalization of telephone use. This means that the current annual charge of 30 pounds, as well as the 1,500 free calls a year, will remain unchanged. The cost of each extra call will be 5 piasters instead of 3. He noted that a new optional system for subscribers would be put into effect. Under its terms, a subscriber would be entitled to an unlimited number of calls. The fee will be 100 pounds a year for private homes, and 300 pounds for businees firms. In addition, he announced measures to facilitate the sale of luxury apartments to foreigners, and to offer dollar bonds, which would be exempt from inheritance tax. The central bank's commission on the deposit of foreign currency has been canceled.

The second group includes additional projects for the rationalization of government expenditures in line with precise objectives. It covers the arrival of, receptions for, and the visit of delegations; the use of government vehicles; and advertisements. The third group includes a commitment by the private sector to produce an additional 1-percent surplus, without affecting prices.

AL-AHRAM Editor on Imminent Economic Measures

PM251148 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition
in Arabic 24 Mar p 1

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "Tomorrow's Measures: Merely a Step"]

[Excerpts] The Cabinet will announce tomorrow its decisions to deal with the situation resulting from the sudden drop in our revenues because of the big drop in oil prices. The drop in oil prices has resulted in a major deficit in the general budget. Dealing with this deficit cannot be left until the next budget because, otherwise, the problems created by it will be exacerbated. We all know that the drop in oil prices has, so far, caused us a loss of $700 million, which would increase to $1.2 billion in the next budget. Also, we all know that the rich Arab oil countries, which do not lack resources or suffer from a budget deficit, have rushed to take steps and draw up plans for urgent measures to deal with the drop in oil revenues.

Although I do not claim knowledge of the measures to be adopted, it is clear that in our country these will follow two main course:

First, rationalizing expenditure, which is necessary and required for the next 3 years in order to clear the bottleneck that our country is experiencing because the dates for the payment of the instalments on all the debts which our country obtained in the seventies will fall due during this period, as well as because of the drop in oil prices.

Second, increasing revenues through imposing certain direct or indirect taxes on those who can afford it. This measure, too, is necessary and required. We often have called for it because low income people have nothing more that we could ask as a contribution to alleviating the burden on the state. Any contribution to alleviating the burden on the state should be borne only by those who can afford it.

Meanwhile, we must assure everybody that we were not against consumption of luxury goods or against people enjoying their money. We only ask that those who can afford it should to pay society a tax on luxury consumption that should contribute to alleviating the burden on the state for the benefit of low income people, thus ensuring social justice in our society, particularly following the recent events that have proved to everybody that the question of social justice cannot be ignored and that class differences between rich and poor shouldnot be left to fate and the sudden outbreak of events.

The contribution of those who can afford it should be doubled since, with such a contribution, the burden on low income people will be alleviated. Thus, dignified life will be shared by all, the foundations of social peace and stability will be strengthened, and development and construction will proceed unhindered.

The limited, simple, and understandable measures that will be announced tomorrow must be part of a general plan to reform and rectify the economic course. It is true that altering the charges for certain services, such as telephones or license fees for luxury automobiles, in a realistic manner will not affect much those who hold telephone meetings or buy luxury automobiles; it also is true that we should consider these new limited measures merely a step on the path to economic reform.

Most important of all is that we should accept these measures totally convinced that there is no alternative to them and that they are necessary for protecting our society, tackling its problems, and defending both its present and its future.

AL-AHRAM Asks Greater Flexibility in U.S. Aid

PM251825 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 21 Mar 86 pp 1, 3

[Part Two of Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "The World and Us: Egypt and the United States"]

[Excerpts] In last week's article we reviewed aspects of our relations with the United States. We said that these relations in the final analysis serve Egypt's strategic objectives of peace, stability, and development. What we mean by peace here is peace based on justice, which we are trying to achieve through exploiting our relations with the United States.

We said that the objectives of stability and development require a high standard of international cooperation, principally between Egypt and the two superpowers and, to a lesser extent, with the world's industrially advanced states and influential states in our region.

We reviewed the figures for U.S. economic and military aid to Egypt, which recently reached $2.8 billion annually and whose importance to Egypt has doubled since most of it has become an outright grant.

We now come to the question that some people like to ask, which is: Why this special relationship with the United States?

Our answer to the question is that our choice of the United States as the other party in our relations with one of the two superpowers is not due to ideological alignment, nor is it a choice in favor of the type of political thinking prevailing in that country. Rather, this choice stems from the common objectives of both parties to establish peace in the area. At a certain historical stage, we have found that we need the United States because, in our estimation, it is the party that is more capable of participating in a political solution to the problem and of influencing Israel to participate in this solution. If the Soviet Union was similarly capable of influencing Israel and pushing it toward a peaceful solution, we would have perhaps chosen the Soviet Union and nobody else, as we did in the 1960's, when we needed its assistance in the military confrontation with Israel.

When military confrontation with Israel was the solution and the method, we had close ties with the party that was capable of helping us in that confrontation, and when political confrontation with Israel became the solution and the method, we established close ties with the party that is capable of helping us in this confrontation.

Therefore, those who believe that our choice of the United States is made strictly because of the assistance it gives us are wrong, despite the fact that this assistance is of extreme importance for Egypt. This assistance requires greater understanding by the U.S. Administration of Egypt's position and role in the area and, particularly, of the economic conditions it is now experiencing. There is no doubt that boosting stability in Egypt and helping it to overcome the difficulties it is facing will be in the common interest of both parties, especially in view of the fact that 1986 and 1987 represent an economic and financial bottleneck for Egypt that will need greater assistance to negotiate this tight spot.

Unfortunately, the payment of instalments and interest on all the loans Egypt obtained from the world countries in the 1970's, with varying periods of grace, will fall due within these 2 years. During these 2 years, Egypt will have to pay $2.5 billion to $3 billion in debt repayments. Later, beginning in 1988, these obligations will drop to about $700 million. What has further complicated this economic difficulty is the situation Egypt is facing as a result of the drop in oil revenues by around $1.2 billion, as well as the drop in revenues from tourism and remittances by Egyptian expatriates.

These conditions call upon the United States to show deeper understanding and greater flexibility toward Egypt's demands for U.S. aid so that wider and more comprehensive benefits can be reaped from it.

We have often requested greater flexibility in the utilization of aid, giving as an example the U.S. treatment of Israel in this regard. We said that it would be useful if we were able to use the aid with similar freedom, but, so far, the United States has not responded to this request. We are hoping still that it will respond.

Another request: We are now paying the instalments of military debts we have owed to the United States since 1982, on which there is 12-percent interest. This constitutes a heavy burden on our budget. Yet, we are not asking the United States to write off these debts, because we realize that all Third World countries that obtain U.S. arms make a similar demand and that the United States cannot respond to the demand of one country for fear that other countries might demand similar treatment. But we request that the high interest be reviewed, particularly in view of the fact that interest rates have now dropped to around 8 percent.

A further request concerns the price of U.S. weapons on the basis of which the U.S. military debts are calculated. We realize that U.S. arms are more expensive than arms from the Eastern camp. Although this is justifiable in view of the more advanced technology utilized in these arms, yet, we also know that U.S. arms are being sold to Egypt at the commercial price. We think that Egypt's political and economic situation and the common strategic objectives between Egypt and the United States for the achievement of peace and stability provide sufficient justification for the United States — if it so wishes — to sell arms to Egypt at prices taking all these factors into consideration, and not at the commercial prices that do not take political factors into account.

We also realize that the United States cannot force its citizens to go to Egypt on tourist trips, but we also realize that truthful reporting by the U.S. Government on stability in the various world countries would be a signal to U.S. tourists to visit countries where it feels that its citizens are in no danger.

Among our requests of the United States is that its aid should not be restricted to Egypt, but also should include Sudan and other Nile-basin countries, so that Egypt can plan and implement long-term programs for the utilization of the Nile waters in the irrigation of new lands and the expansion of the cultivable area in our country. It is worth noting here in this regard that Egypt always tries to plan in order to avoid future problems and deal with them, while the U.S. Administration generally responds to the Egyptian Government's requests only regarding today's urgent problems.

There is no doubt that a look at Egypt's role in the area with the future in mind will enable the United States to understand Egypt's desire that U.S. aid should include its plans to exploit the Nile waters and to give technical aid to some African states. This is not a novelty, since the United States does offer Israel the means that enable it to give assistance to Africa. So why should not the same principle be applied to Egypt and its interest in Africa, which is more legitimate, greater, and wider than that of Israel?

We then come to a request that applies equally to the United States and the Soviet Union as far as we are concerned. There is no doubt that we in the Third World countries shoulder a major portion of the bill for the cold war between the two giants, because the increasing tension between the two sides and the receding coexistence between them adversely affects their aid to developing countries and their program to help these countries economically.

It is our right to ask them both to discuss together the possibility of reaching a better level of peaceful coexistence that would enable them to help the developing countries facing the world economic problem, for which purpose the United Nations is to hold a special session next May.

It is certainly our right to ask them to play a role in ending the Gulf war, in order to ease the terrible economic pressures from which the whole region is suffering as a result of that war. Ending that war would ease the burden on the Arab oil countries and would prompt them to transfer their financial deposits to other Arab countries that need such deposits, thereby improving the economic situation in these countries, including Egypt.

It is also our right to ask the U.S. Administration to place the Middle East problem on its list of urgent priorities since we have observed that its priorities in the recent past and at present unfortunately do not include the question of peace in the Middle East and that it focuses on its problems in Latin America and Asia, as well as on the dialogue between the two superpowers. While making this observation about the U.S. Administration, we do not, on the other hand, absolve the Arab side from blame for the fact that the Middle East problem has been put on the back burner where the U.S. list of priorities is concerned. The Arab side has not yet reached a practical joint formula that would prompt the United States to participate in the solution.

To conclude this talk about our relations with the United States, I would say that appreciating Egypt's role in the three overlapping spheres — the Arab sphere, the Islamic sphere, and the African sphere — should create better conditions for understanding the economic and political demands we make of the United States.

Out of fairness, we must say that we need to activate Egyptian-U.S. dialogue, which, so far, is overwhelmingly in the nature of a discourse by the U.S. side with Egypt rather than being a two-way dialogue between two sides. By dialogue here is meant the kind of dialogue in which the administration, the political bodies, the parties, and the research centers take part. We note, for example, that the number of U.S. envoys to Egypt is far larger than the number of Egyptian official envoys to the United States and that the number of political delegations from among congressmen is far larger than the number of Eguptian delegations that visit the United States for the same purpose. Since the structure of American society does not allow the giving of aid to other countries out of taxpayers' money without the approval of its parliamentary and popular bodies, we certainly need to enrich the dialogue with these institutions and with U.S. public opinion in order to create a better atmosphere for relations that would be more beneficial for Egypt and would better achieve its objectives in peace, stability, and development.

The talk about us and the world will continue.

Ghali on 7th Anniversary of Peace Treaty With Israel

NC251205 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed Egypt's commitment to the peace treaty, to a peaceful solution, and to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. In a statement to MENA on the 7th anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Dr Ghali said that the signing of that treaty was an important event in the history of Egypt and the Middle East. It was also a major step toward achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

He added: The aim of Egypt's efforts for peace has never been confined to reaching a unilateral settlement or to liberating Egyptian territory. We have worked and are still working for the liberation of the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan, and for the Palestinian people to exercise its full national rights like all other peoples. Dr Ghali went on to say: We have achieved a lot since 1977, but we still have much to do to attain this peace. There are obstacles facing us still. What is important is to work for peace in order to overcome these obstacles, otherwise we shall lose hope that right will prevail in the end.

Delegation Departs for More Tabah Talks in Israel

NC252214 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, left Cairo for Tel Aviv this evening at the head of the Egyptian delegation to the sixth round of talks on Tabah. In a predeparture statement, Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi said that real differences still existed with regard to some of the articles pertaining to the terms of arbitration. Foremost among these differences remains the formulation of the question to be put before the arbitral body.

Opposition Youths Urge Boycott of Israeli Pavilion

PM251354 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Mar 86 p 4

["Text" of statement issued by the Union of Socialist Party Youth: "Boycott the Zionist Pavillion"]

[Text] On the occasion of the Egyptian Government allowing Israel to set up a pavilion at the Cairo International Fair now being held in the Nasr township fair grounds, the Union of Socialist Labor Party Youth issued a statement condemning the Egyptian Government's weak and irresponsible attitude and calling on Egyptian young people and citizens to boycott the Zionist pavilion. The following is the text of the statement:

Free young men of Egypt, noble citizens: The NDP government insists on provoking our patriotic feelings and showing indifference to the nation's dignity and honor. The government this year allowed the Zionists murderers, who every day kill an Arab even before the blood of the previous days martyr has dried, to set up a permanent pavilion at the Cairo International Fair. This is despite the fact that our people last year showed more than ever before their unanimous rejection of this hateful pavilion of those murderers, trampled upon their flat, and cornered them inside the pavilion while they were being protected by the Central Security Forces.

Israel is occupying Egyptian land, constantly trying to interfere in our country's internal affairs, and fighting us with drugs and prostitutes. If our government is committed to the Camp David agreement, the Egyptian people are not committed to Israel. If the government approves of the existence of an Israeli embassy hiding on the 19th and 20th floors of a building in Al-Jizah, the Egyptian people are not obliged to deal with the Israelis. If Egyptian ministers are obliged to meet with their Israeli opposite numbers, the Egyptian people are not obliged to do so. We thought that the government was showing a modicum of sense of responsibility when it banned Israel from participating in the book exhibition so that the Egyptian people's feelings would not be hurt. But it did not do the same in the case of the Cairo International Fair.

The government has now shown consideration for the serious situation that the country experienced a few days ago during the Central Security Forces' mutiny, when the Egyptian people adopted a solid stand out of their care for democracy and the legitimate struggle for improving the deteriorating standard of living.

The government is showing no consideration for what the country has suffered and whose effects are still evident, with the Armed Forces still carrying out the task of maintaining security in greater Cairo. It brings us this provocative pavilion of our enemies, the Zionist occupiers who never cease spying on Egypt as repeated incidents in Sinai have proved. Thus, it is the government that is exposing the country's stability to danger and lacking the minimum of nationalist feelings when it allows the opening of the Zionist pavilion in March 1986 when the nationalist masses locked it up in March 1985.

Those who want to move normalization on the official level to the popular level are playing with fire and threatening the country's security. Every Israeli moving on Egyptian territory in our view and the people's view is a war criminal whom the authorities should arrest. Those who allowed the opening of a pavilion for the Zionists are insulting the people's holiest of holies. Yet, they say that the people are the hero and deserve democracy.

Sons of Egypt and its people: Our word to you is: Boycott the Zionist pavilion; do not enter it; make them feel that they are strangers at the fair just as they are strangers on Malik bin Nabi Street (embassy location) and in the Israeli Regional Center on al-nil Street; and make the government feel ashamed of its attitude. Let Israel and those who weaken before it know that it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than to have normal relations between Egypt and this contemptible entity.

God is great and long live the people.

Union of Socialist Labor Party Youth.

Israeli Policies Blamed for Hostile Atmosphere

PM251845 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Mar 86 p 12

[Muhsin Muhammad article: "From the Heart"]

[Text] Acts of assassination, violence, murder, and bombing of installations occur everywhere, but nobody accuses the governments of the states concerned of failing to maintain security or claims that there is some malfunction or incompetence in protecting people's lives. It has happened in the United States, Britain, France, and most Arab states. We are not the only country to have had such incidents. Egyptians have been targets of such incidents at various levels, even at the highest levels. We are not saying this to justify one thing on the basis of another but are stating a known fact.

The state cannot protect every foreigner. In most cases it is the public who protect, guard, and defend foreigners. There was ample evidence of that when a Central Security group mutinied and attacked hotels. Only one Danish lady fell victim to these incidents, perhaps because she was not immediately aware of the danger and of the fire that swept the hotel she was in.

A foreign citizen is protected by the policies of his government and the atmosphere it creates, in addition to being protected by the Egyptian police. Terrorism, murder, assassination, and forcible expulsion of Arabs from their homes, lands, and countries were committed before and after Israel's birth. Terrorism against the Arabs is still the Israeli Government's internal policy, and that is in addition to pursuing Palestinians everywhere.

If Israel wants to provide additional protection for its citizens in Egypt — over and above what is provided by the Egyptian government, which is considerable — then it must create a new atmosphere that will induce some people to refrain from assassinating any Israelis and could prompt others to forewarn Israeli civilians whom they believe should not, at any rate, be held responsible for their government's actions.

It is clear that Israel has no intention of doing that and is not even trying. The time has come for Israel to change its policies in Lebanon and the occupied territories and to move toward real peace, not use peace as a trade or put pressure on the United States through U.S. Jews to halt and freeze every peace initiative.

No guard, however strong, can guarantee safety in a hostile atmosphere where Israeli actions are heard of and read about every day.

In the occupied territory Zafir al-Masri, the mayor, appointed by Israel, was assassinated, and Israel could not protect him despite the fact that the vast majority of the people there believed in his patriotism and Arabism — as reflected in their appearance at his funeral to express their true feelings.

It is Israel's duty to reconsider many of its political atittudes. It should also understand that when the Central Security incidents occurred there were no attempts on any Israelis. The Israeli Embassy lowered its flag because it knew how the Egyptian people and others living in Egypt really felt.

Further on Visit by Soviet Parliamentary Group

Talks on Electric Supply

NC251132 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Official talks between Egypt and the Soviet Union on technical cooperation in matters of electricity supply began this morning at the ministry of electricity and energy. The Egyptian representatives were led by Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah and the Soviet delegation by Anatoliy Mayorets, Soviet minister for the electrical equipment industry, who is currently visiting Cairo as a member of the Soviet parliamentary delegation.

The minister of electricity stated that the two parties examined the possibility of strengthening bilateral technical cooperation in the field of electricity. Discussions also dealt with the needs of those power generating projects, which were carried out with assistance from the Soviet Union and now require spare parts, equipment, and other necessary material for renovation purposes. Foremost among these projects is the Suez electricity generating plant, with a capacity of 100,000 kilowatts per hour.

The minister added that the two delegations also discussed requirements for the cables carrying and distributing the electricity generated by the High Dam power plant, particularly the cable between Cairo and the High Dam, which has a capacity of 1.7 million kilowatts per hour.

'Abd al-Hakim Meets Group

NC251324 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, speaker of the Consultative Council, received the USSR parliamentary delegation at his office today. The delegation, which is currently on a visit to Egypt, is led by Pavel Gilashvili, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. During the meeting, views were exchanged on issues of international peace and the problems in the Middle East Region. Bilateral relations between Egypt and the USSR also were discussed.

Delegation Leaves Cairo

NC251910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — The Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Georgian Republic Supreme Soviet, left Cairo this evening at the completion of a 1-week visit to Egypt. During their stay, the delegation members met with President Husni Mubarak and presented him with a written message from the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. They also conveyed to him a verbal message from the Soviet leaders.

In a statement at Cairo airport prior to his departure, the head of the parliamentary delegation described the visit as successful and affirmed that its objectives had been achieved. He also expressed his gratitude for the hospitality that had been shown to him and to his accompanying delegation. He said that his meetings had been fruitful and profitable, particularly those with President Husni Mubarak and other senior Egyptian officials. These meetings have provided us with a fresh impression of the new Egyptian leadership, he added, particularly President Mubarak's determination to serve the cause of peace and the interests of his people. Despite the differences in doctrine, he noted that viewpoints had been identical and harmonious. He added: We both agree on the importance of world peace.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, who saw the Soviet delegation off at the airport, also said that the visit had been successful. He added that viewpoints had been exchanged and several topics of mutual interest had been discussed. He pointed out that Egypt is very concerned with its relations will all countries, particularly the superpowers. This stems from Egypt's interest in maintaining friendly relations with all peoples, and in serving common and just causes, he said. He noted that a number of international problems, including the Middle East issue, had been discussed with members of the delegation.

Economy Minister Abu 'Ali Leaves for USSR Visit

NC251828 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1704 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — The members of a delegation led by Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali, minister of economy and foreign trade, left Cairo for Moscow this evening on a 6-day visit. In a predeparture statement, Abu 'Ali said the purpose of the trip was to conclude and sign a bilateral trade protocol for 1986. The negotiations that began last summer will be resumed during the visit, as scheduled.

Ba'th Party, LCY Officials Begin Talks in Baghdad

JN251459 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — Talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party led by Na'im Haddad, member of the Party's National Command, and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] led by Hamidja Pozderac, member of the LCY Central Committee, began here today. The talks dealt with ways to promote fruitful cooperation between the two friendly parties. The two sides also comprehensively reviewed various Arab and international issues, in addition to developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

Kuwaiti National Assembly Delegation Arrives

JN260711 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2125 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — Several members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly arrived here tonight. They are: Faysal al-Sa'igh, Ahmad al-Shuray'an, Nasir al-Binay, Sa'd Tami Sa'd, Hadi Hayif, and 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Khalaf al-Sa'id.

Sa'd Tami Sa'd told INA that the purpose of the visit is to express solidarity with the Iraqi people in their heroic stand and just battle against the Iranian invaders.

Sa'd added that the Kuwaiti people are proud of the Iraqi Armed Forces' brave and courageous defense of the Arab nation's honor and sovereignty against the new Iranian invasion and wish the Iraqi people under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn final victory over the Iranian aggressors.

The Kuwaiti delegation was met on arrival by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Iraqi National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

8 Iranian Officials Killed on Front

JN251941 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] INA learned today that eight Iranian Army and Khomeyni Guard officials were killed by the brave Iraqis in the VII Army Corps sector. These Iranian officials are: Mohammad Reza Khanka, officer in charge of operations of the 27th Division; Mohammad Najad Ghaffar, officer in charge of the administrative affairs of the 7th Division; Mohammad Asadi Najad, a Marine official; Bord Azizi, a Khomeyni ideological guidance official; Javad Dal Adhar, officer in charge of operations of the 17th Division; Ahmed Rad Mard Qadiri, officer in charge of the Khomeyni Guards' administrative affairs for the Marines; Mohsen Bolendian, officer in charge of medical affairs of the 17th Division; and Gholam Reza Sultan, one of Khomeyni's mullahs.

INA has also learned that Seyyed Zadeh, the representative of the Kermanshah Province of the so-called Islamic Majlis, has revealed in one of his private conversations the deterioration in the situation of Iranians on the front because of the insufficient number of volunteers and their flight. The gravity of the Iranian enemy's situation prompted the Khomeyni regime to decide to dispatch groups of Khomeyni Guards and police units from the cites to the battlefield in a desperate attempt to tackle the deteriorating morale of the besieged Iranians.

It has been conclusively confirmed that the Iranian enemy's heavy losses in the VII Army Corps was one of the causes for the deterioration of the enemy's morale.

Spokesman Reports Moshk Camp Raid

JN261126 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1117 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To inflict further losses on the aggressor regime and to pursue it on its land, our brave Air Force planes carried out a devastating raid against the Moshk camp at 0817 (0517 GMT] today, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life, equipment, and ammunition depots. Our planes then safely returned to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 26 March 1986

Planes Attack Troop Concentrations

JN261228 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes dealt concentrated blows to Iranian troop concentrations and military hardware in the area opposite Panjwin in the northern sector this morning. A military spokesman told INA that the targets hit include 30 vehicles; 11 hideouts, including 6 large enough for military hardware and weapons; several personnel positions; several ammunition dumps; and some 30 to 35 caravans.

The spokesman said that the concentrated blows transformed the hit targets into debris and that the planes safely returned to base.

Combat Activities Updated

JN251354 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The heroic Air Force eagles and helicopter knights have carried out 18,468 combat missions since the beginning of the treacherous Iranian aggression against Al-Faw until last night. This was announced by a military source to the INA team in the southern sector who said that our fighter and bomber planes carried out 10,987 combat missions during that period. Our helicopters carried out 7,515 missions. The source affirmed that the enemy forces were devastated as a result of these successful air missions which included the aggressors' concentrations, positions, armored vehicles, ammunition dumps, supply routes, and bridges.

The source said that enemy planes which were downed by our ground defenses and Air Force planes since 10 February total 21 planes; 10 fighter planes, 9 helicopters, and 2 military transport planes.

The team said that the formations of the heroic Al-Rashid and northern columns continued their combat activities against the besieged Iranian enemy forces in the deadly Al-Faw triangle. It said that our formations' operations are proceeding in accordance with the plan defined for them by the General Command of the Armed Forces with splendid air and artillery support in order to annihilate the enemy forces and to purge the land from the filth of aggressors.

Citing a military source in the VII Army Corps sector, the team adds that the Iranian enemy is daily sustaining heavy losses in life and equipment on the two sides of the Shatt al-'Arab. The source pointed out that in daring night raids the day before yesterday, the northern column units succeeded in destroying nine enemy tanks, a number of vehicles, armored cars, and positions as well as killing a great number of enemy personnel.

Communique No 2,162

JN251750 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Communique No 2,162 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 March 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. On the VII Army Corps front: The valiant Al-Rashid and northern columns continued to inflict massive losses on the aggressor forces by directing barrages of fire at enemy positions all night long yesterday and today. Their fire was supported by concentrated and continuous strikes delivered by our Air Force, Army helicopter gunships, artillery, and naval forces. The lightning raids the northern column carried out on enemy positions two nights ago resulted in destroying nine infantry positions, four tanks, five 106-mm guns, and two armored personnel carriers, and in setting several ammunition dumps on fire.

2. Our Air Force today continued to deliver violent strikes against the enemies, destroying their remnants, equipment, and weapons in 48 combat missions after which the eagles returned safely to base, praised be God.

3. The valiant cavaliers of the helicopter gunships carried out 45 combat sorties against enemy troop concentrations, equipment, and weaponry, inflicting substantial losses. They then returned safely to base, praised be God.

4. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector destroyed one tubular launcher, killed six enemy soldiers, and seized the following weapons: a) five RPG-7 launchers; b) four Strella launchers; c) 15 GC rifles; d) one DSHK machinegun; e) one medium-caliber machinegun; f) one 60-mm mortar; g) six RPK machineguns and a quantity of ammunition and equipment.

5. The Syrian regime, which sold the Golan, sabotaged Lebanon, and conspired against the Palestine question and the Palestinian armed struggle, is complementing its disgraceful actions by supplying arms to the racist Iranian regime which harbors ambitions against Arab territory and which plots against the nation's progress. One of our patrols in the V Army Corps sector found crates of DSHK machinegun ammunition of Syrian origin.

Let the Syrian rulers be disgraced for their vile alliance with the Zionist entity and the regime of charlatans in Iran against the Arab nation which is waging in this part of the homeland a most honorable epic for the noblest of aims. Nevertheless, Iraq, which is gaining support from the nation's hopes and energies, will crush with the feet of its sons all this baseness and vileness. The Arab nation will continue to shine radiantly thanks to the struggle of its righteous sons.

6. The criminal enemy forces shelled Biyarah and Khurmal with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 March 1986

Prince Hasan Opens Symposium on Iraq-Iran War

JN251502 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Amman — Deputizing for His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan inaugurated the international symposium to stop the war between Iraq and Iran and to establish peace between the two countries held under the slogan no to war, yes to peace at the Cultural Palace at the Husayn Youth City this morning. His highness delivered a speech conveying His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to participants in the symposium and his majesty's hopes for success in serving the Arab nation's objective of stopping the war between Iraq and Iran and establishing peace between the two neighboring countries in order to spare the blood of Arabs and Muslims and safeguard the region's stability and security.

His Highness Prince Hasan affirmed that Jordan's commitment to support fraternal Iraq is a commitment to Arab charters, the Arab League Charter, and the necessity of Arab solidarity. He said: We call for solidarity and extending support to any Arab country subjected to aggression. His highness said: The armed conflict between Iraq and Iran is the most tragic conflict in our region. This is so not only because it causes heavy human and material losses, opens doors for threatening the regional security of all the Gulf states, and offers wide possibilites for foreign intervention, but also because the tragic nature of the conflict emanates from the futility of this conflict and from the great illusion which obsesses one of the sides, which is Iran.

His highness the crown prince added: Since the eruption of the war, serious efforts to end it have not ceased. Arab, Islamic, regional, and international efforts were exerted to stop this war. Fraternal Iraq responded to these efforts constructively because Iraq seeks justice and it is legally right. It does not fear dialogue as its victorious army has proved it does not fear fire. However, these efforts were met by the Iranian leadership with a deaf ear. His highness said: While standing alongside fraternal Iraq, we beseech God to guide the Iranian leadership to follow the path of prudence and wisdom and not to continue to insist on one of its great illusions — namely, the illusion of exporting its revolution to neighboring countries. He affirmed that our standing alongside Iraq whose land is subjected to aggression is a stand against aggression and not a stand against the Iranian people. Our stand on Iraq, when Iran announced its impossible conditions to end the war, is a stand against the imposition of hegemony irrespective of its source. Representatives from international and regional organizations and a number of international bodies representing public opinion participate in this symposium.

Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Action Toward Libya

SAWT AL-SHA'B Commentary

JN260757 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Mar 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Aggression, Land, and Commitment"]

[Text] It may not be a coincidence for the U.S. attack on Libyan territory to be timed with the Arab League Council meeting in Tunis, because this development adds a new dimension to the current Arab reality which is afflicted by division, weakness, and failure to honor pan-Arab commitments.

It may not also be a coincidence for the attack to be timed with the escalating secessionist rebel movement in Sudan and the attempts to withhold aid and assistance to that Arab country in its effort to deal with this conspiratorial secessionist movement against the unity of its territory and people.

Furthermore, it may not be a coincidence for the attack to be timed with the international symposium for establishing peace between Iraq and Iran which began its work in Amman yesterday to divert people's attention from this symposium, which has begun to reveal certain facts and the stands that opened the doors of the Arab region to the greedy, tamperers, and intruders.

The events and issues of the Arab region are all linked to the imperialist onslaught that is being directed against the Arab homeland's three main fronts — Palestine, Iraq, and Sudan — by parties most hostile to the nation and its issues.

Perhaps what is new in the recent development represented by the U.S. attack on Libyan territory and sovereignty is that it serves as a lesson to those people who believe that they are safe as long as they remain outside the circle of joint Arab action and disregard the indivisibility of pan-Arab security.

Let us hope that those people have now learned their lesson now that all the Arabs, motivated by their commitment to the honor and sovereignty of Arab territory, have condemned the U.S. attack on Libyan territory despite those people's action in humbling this very Arab honor by siding with another aggressor on Arab territory and security on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland.

Arab honor, security, and territorial integrity as well as the Arab individual are all an indivisible whole and a principle that cannot be compromised by anyone.

AL-DUSTUR on 'Flagrant Agression'

JN260853 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar 86 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Premeditated Aggression"]

[Text] In a flagrant challenge to the feelings of the Arab masses and within the framework of an unprecedented action in the international arena, the United States has carried out a direct military aggression against the fraternal Libyan people, thus violating international law and the UN Charter and jeopardizing world peace and security.

What took place in the Gulf of Sidra and on the Libyan coast was not coincidental nor was the United States taken by surprise. This was a premeditated act which the U.S. Administration has sought to carry out for several months and for which it has mobilized scores of warships and aircraft carriers, dispatching them to the area from various locations as part of a plan which has been largely described as a provocative act by a big state against a small one. In fact, the United States, which unsuccessfully attempted to instigate its European allies to support it in imposing economic measures against Libya, escalated its military threats to punish Libya in an attempt to make up for its failure in calling, as a leading Western power, for besieging the Libyan people and starving them out.

Therefore, the U.S. action in the Gulf of Sidra against the Libyan territory can only be viewed as flagrant premeditated aggression. The United States undertook this aggression at a time when the Arab foreign ministers are holding their regular Arab League Council meeting, in an attempt to show further indifference to this nation which views any foreign aggression against any of its states as direct aggression against it.

We believe that this U.S. policy lacks wisdom and is far from the spirit of this age, its values, principles, and various laws. We also believe that those who adopt this policy will only reap isolation, failure, and confusion, and that they will be dragged into a wide circle of mutual violence which will sow deep hostility toward the United States and its interests in the region.

The U.S. aggression against Libya, just as any foreign aggression against any other Arab state, is today, more than ever before, an issue which concerns all the Arabs and which poses very serious questions for them. It has become clear that what encouraged the Americans to carry out this condemned action, and before them the Israelis and the Iranians, is the Arab estrangement and the weak commitment to this nation's charters and principles. We strongly call on the Arabs to learn a lesson from this and to redress the erroneous stand in which all the Arabs are involved.

AL-RA'Y Reacts to Moroccan King's Statement

JN251113 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 Mar 86 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Moroccan Monarch's Statement"]

[Text] The Moroccan monarch's statement to Kuwaiti *AL-SIYASAH* raises certain questions and issues. Before discussing these issues and questions, we should ask whether these remarks were made spontaneously and whether they can be interpreted in some other way, or perhaps they are leading in a direction which experience has proven will not bring any results or lead to any logical end which would achieve justice and rights and fulfill hopes.

The Moroccan monarch said the Arabs had not taken the time to directly acquaint themselves with the Israeli viewpoint, and that everything reaching them was carried by mediators. The Moroccan monarch sees this as a mistake by the Arabs, and pan-Arab impotence, or something similar. The fact is that His Majesty King Hassan II realizes, as we realize, and knows, as we know, that there is nothing that we do not know about the Zionist enemy, whether about its fascist nature or its expansionist ideas that are full of rancor and hatred, not only to all that is Arab but also to all that is non-Zionist. We do not know what more the Moroccan monarch wants us to know about Zionism and its tool which is represented by the Israeli military institution? What secret or secrets could be carried to us by mediators —secrets that can only be revealed by direct Arab-Israeli contacts, on the level of an Arab head of state who would be chosen by the Arab leaders, in order to convey the Israeli viewpoint which so far is not known to us and which we have not been acquainted with through mediators?

The Israeli institution does not respect international legitimacy and turns its back on UN resolutions. It is professional in carrying out aggressions and expansions and, through its military supremacy, attacks our cities, hijacks planes, besieges camps, and shells schools and places of worship. Such an institution has nothing to conceal or to tell us about through mediators. Zionism, which was condemned by the international community as being a racial movement, has presented itself to this community as an ideological, political, economic, and military force that has no respect for values and principles, and which does not hesitate to commit any crime at any time, whether on land, at sea or in the air. Has the international community's condemnation of this racial movement come as a result of lack of information or rejection of direct contacts to discuss viewpoints? We are certain this is not the case.

The Moroccan monarch proposed that an Arab envoy should carry with him the Fes summit resolutions in order to hear the Israelis' views directly and without mediators. However, the whole world, including the Moroccan monarch knows that the Zionist enemy proves, through practice, that it rejects to withdraw from Arab territories and stresses that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital and that the Palestinian people have no rights. Can the meeting which the Moroccan monarch proposed change anything in the racial Torah Israeli constants whether regarding the Arabism of Palestine and its people's rights or concerning Jerusalem, the great city and the capital of Arabs and Muslims?

We reiterate that the experience of fraternal Egypt and Lebanon in dealing directly with the enemy and in acquainting themselves with its viewpoint without mediators, has proved this Zionist entity's arrogance and hostility.

Moreover, the call for holding an international conference under UN auspices within the framework of full respect for the UN principles and resolutions, is the only call which deserves to be followed up. At such a conference, mediators will become witnesses. We do not believe that the Zionist enemy's plans and intentions will change with regard to the search for justice, peace, and right in this region.

Still, we have one final remark about the Moroccan monarch's remarks which we do not think he anticipated, namely, these remarks show the Arabs as being responsible for the failure of peace efforts and for the possibilities of wars, conflagration, and instability in the region, because we did not go to our enemy in order to directly acquaint ourselves with its views and intentions. The fact is that our enemy is continuously speaking about its intentions, and in fact, is practicing them through its attempts to change the constants of the cause and logic and to impose a fait accompli which the Arabs must accept so as to achieve the peace the enemy wants.

Oil Exploration Agreement Signed With AMOCO

JN261010 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Amman *(JORDAN TIMES)* — Jordan on Tuesday signed a profit- sharing agreement with a major American company for oil exploration in certain parts of the Kingdom.

Under the agreement, the American oil company AMOCO will explore for oil in the Jordan Valley and al-Azraq regions. Hamzah and Wadi Rahel areas, were excluded from the agreement which was signed by Minister of Energy Hisham al-Khatib on the Jordanian side and on the American side by Mr Peter Jordan, the company's vice president for operations in the Middle East and Africa, the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, said.

The exploring company will be bound to conduct geological, geophysical and geochemical field studies during the seven-and-a- half-year agreement. It will also dig five exploratory wells.

The Natural Resources authority has no future programmes for oil exploration in the regions included in the agreement.

Agreement on Oil Shale Study Signed With W. Germany

JN251200 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — West Germany will conduct tests on samples of oil shale found at Al-Lajjun in southern Jordan and will also help conduct a feasibility study on shale oil production, according to an agreement signed in Amman Monday. The agreement is the second of its kind between the two countries and entails conducting tests on 100 tonnes of oil shale from Al-Lajjun which has already been shipped to West Germany.

West Germany will also study the best and most effective means of exploiting the oil shale and will prepare designs for a station that will be used in the process of extracting oil from shale. The feasibility study will last 12 months and will cost nearly Jd 600,000 to be paid by the natural Resources Authority (NRA) in conjunction with West German Government and a consortium of German companies helping in the study, according to the agreement.

The agreement was signed on behalf of NRA by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham al-Khatib and by a representative of the West German consortium.

Minister Al-Huss Comments on Libyan-U.S. Conflict

NC251745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Commenting on recent developments in the Gulf of Sidra, Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of labor and education, said the following this evening: The United States is wagging a losing war. I cannot imagine how a superpower can force itself into the Gulf of Sidra and still remain a superpower. However, hard it tries to depict the situation to the contrary, the fact remains that it is acting from the position of an aggressor.

'Aggression' Directed at Arabs

NC251330 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Grouping of Popular Committees and Leagues in Lebanon said that the U.S. aggression against Libya is actually directed against the Arab nation and all the forces of freedom and peace in the world. This agression is a flagrant return of U.S. policy to the era of direct imperialist intervention. The Grouping called for historic initiatives to formulate a unified Arab position. This position would sidestep all differences and conflicts and would mobilize the entire Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf to foil the aggression and open the way for Arab unity so as to salvage the Arab cause from its present state of deterioration and collapse.

Anonymous Caller Warns About Collett Health

NC251821 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1730 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received a telephone call from an anonymous person who read a statement on behalf of the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims [al-munazzamah al-thawriyah li al-muslimin al-ishtrakiyin]. According to the caller, this group has claimed responsibility for holding British citizen Alec Collett. The caller also said that the organization had entrusted Mustafa Sa'd with presenting its demands to the UK ambassador in Beirut. He warned that Collett's life is in extreme danger because he is suffering from a grave kidney disorder.

The caller has asked that UK authorities send ten dialysis machines, along with several kinds of medication, by air. These should then be given to Mustafa Sa'd, who will distribute them to ten hospitals in the south. The caller affirmed that one of these machines will be used to treat Collett.

Kidnappers End UK 'Contacts'

NC260621 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims, which claimed responsibility for kidnapping British journalist Alec Collett a year ago, has announced that it halted direct contacts with all UK Government representatives, including the ambassador in Lebanon. The organization added that Collett's life is in grave danger.

Release of French Hostages Expected 'Very Soon'

NC261034 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In a press statement today, 'Umaran Adham, the special envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand, has asserted that the release of the French hostages is expected very soon. He added that the hostages may be released within the next few days.

Casualties Reported in East Beirut Explosions

Mother, Child Wounded

NC260650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] An explosive device went off this morning in a second-floor apartment in the six-story Al-Kuwayti Building in the Al-Tahwitah-Furn al-Shubbak area. The explosion created small cracks in the building's walls and wounded a mother and her child.

15 Casualties in Al-Ashrafiyah

NC260917 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0845 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] According to preliminary reports, an explosion took place at 1015 on Bishop Nasrallah Street, in the Fassuh area of Al-Ashrafiyah, resulting in 15 casualties. The injured were rushed to hospitals. Material losses are extensive and a number of fires have broken out in the area. Fire brigade, civil defense, and Red Cross teams are conducting first aid operations and removing the rubble.

Details of Al-Ashrafiyah Blast

NC260942 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] There were more than 30 casualties in an explosion that took place in the Fassuh area of Al-Ashrafiyah at 1015 today. The explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car, rigged with a large quantity of explosives. According to preliminary reports, the car was a mini-Cooper. Cars, shops, and surrounding buildings suffered extensive damage. Ambulances, fire engines, and civil defense cars rushed to the scene, where rescue operations are underway. Citizens are requested not to go to the area so as to facilitate rescue operations. The charge was estimated at 150 kg of explosives. It left a crater 1.5 meters deep and 2.5 meters wide.

Fighting on Mountain Combat Lines Continues

Situation 'Extremely Tense'

NC251227 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Despite two cease-fire agreements, the situation on the mountain combat lines remains extremely tense. Fighting resumed on the Bsaba-Al-Ma'rufiyah line at 1230. Shells fell on Dayr Qubil, 'Ayn 'Nub, and Shimlan. The Al-Shuwayfat-Kafr Shima combat line came under fire from tank guns at 1250, and at 1300 the Ra's al-Jabal line was subjected to rocket attack. Tension also prevails on the Al-'Ayrun and Al-Dawwar lines in upper Al-Matn. Sporadic rocket fire is being directed at these lines.

Shelling Kills 2, Wounds 15

NC261229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The intensity of the random shelling on the northern and upper Al-Matn combat lines eased after 1230 today, as a result of the commanders intensive contacts. Two people were killed and 15 others were wounded in this shelling.

Several Areas Under Rocket Fire

NC260850 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Since 0915 today, the Brummana, B'abdat, and Dahr al-Sawwan areas have been coming under fire from the rocket launchers in Qirnayil, Hammana, 'Aynturah al-Matn, Falugha, and Al-Khalwat. According to security reports, more than 60 122-mm Grad rockets fell on these residential areas before 1000 today. We learned a short while ago that Rumiyah and Brummana came under fire from Dayr al-Harf.

Cease-Fire Ineffective

NC261114 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] According to the latest security reports, 60-mm, 130-mm, and 140-mm mortar shelling is continuing against the areas of Bikfayya, Mar Musa, Al-Zighrin, Al-Duwwar, 'Ayn al-Tuffahah, Himlaya, and Ba'abdat. A cease-fire was supposed to take effect at 1200; however, leftist gunmen have not yet adhered to it. Violent clashes, involving the use of rockets and artillery, are also currently raging along the Bsaba-al-Ma'rufiyah combat line in the mountain. Shelling of the coast and the central Al-Matn area has resulted in a number of casualties.

Clashes Reported on Beirut Combat Lines

NC251942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Clashes involving the use of various types of weapons, including mortars and rockets, are now taking place along the Sodeco, Ra's al-Nab', and Bisharah al-Khuri combat lines. It has been reported that the Sha'lani building in the Al-Barbir area has been hit by two tank shells following an exchange of rocket fire along the Al-Barbir-Museum combat line. A guarded calm now prevails in Beirut's southern suburb, broken only by intermittent sniper fire.

U.S. Embassy Denies Group's Claim of Attack

NC252105 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
2046 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] A statement was distributed in West Beirut this evening in the name of an organization calling itself the Vanguard of the Arab Revolutionary Forces [Tali'at al-qiwa al-thawriyah al-'arabiyah]. The declaration notes that the group claims responsibility for shooting a number of rockets at the U.S. Embassy building in 'Awkar. According to the statement, this was done in retaliation for what was described as U.S. aggression against Libya. The U.S. Embassy has denied that its installations have been hit, or that any projectiles have fallen nearby.

Gunmen Steal UN-Owned Car in West Beirut

NC251805 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Four gunmen have intercepted and stolen a car driven by Milad al-Bustati in the Suq al-Khudar section of West Beirut. The vehicle is a brown Volkswagen with UN diplomatic license plate No 190/22.

Further Reports on Fighting in South

Resistance Hits Israeli Settlements

NC251816 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Lebanese National Resistance fighters attacked an enemy positinon in Al-Tayyibah this evening and eyewitnesses said a fire broke out there. Meanwhile, the occupation forces have freed one of their prisoners, Husayn 'Ali Mar'i Kurani.

At midnight last night, members of the National Resistance attacked the settlements of Menora and Qiryat Shemona in the occupied Arab territories with 107-mm rockets in retaliation for the murderous act of aggression against Al-Nabatiyah.

In a similar development, the martyr 'izz al-Din al-Tafshan group of the Lebanese National Resistance bombarded the settlement of Metulla with Katyushas for a second time at dawn today. A number of enemy vehicles, including a Jeep, were hit.

Palestinians Deploy Forces

NC251939 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Sources close to the observers unit reported this evening that the situation in and around the Burj al-Barajinah camp has become quite tense after large numbers of Palestinian gunmen deployed on Al-'Adnan and Farahat streets. The sources noted that Amal has brought rocket launchers into Al-Raml Al-'Ali, and on to the airport road and Al-Sayyad Street in Burj al-Barajinah. Hamid 'Awwad and Hasan al-Siba'i are responsible for these weapons.

Four trucks carrying shells for 107- and 130-mm artillery pieces were seen leaving the Al-Hajj Hasan Salim al-'Adnan Building on 'Ayn al-Dilbi Street in Burj al-Barajinah a short while ago. This ammunition will be distributed in Al-Raml al-'Ali and on the airport road for later shipment to specific emplacements.

Clashes Near Shatila Camp, Sidon

NC252030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] There was some machinegun fire inside the Shatila camp at approximately 2030, which developed into fighting with small- and medium-caliber weapons 15 minutes later. This followed a security incident involving a number of gunmen in Farhat. The camps security Coordination Committee has contacted those concerned in order to stop the clashes and restore calm.

At the same time, the front east of Sidon is noticeably tense. Intermittent fighting between members of the Popular Liberation Army and agent Lahd's militia has been reported along the Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir and Kafr Falus combat lines.

Sabra Camp Clashes Ease

NC252123 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
2045 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded two Palestinians in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the south this evening. The two are Samir Dahir and Muhammad Talib Zaydan. Meanwhile, a number of armed individuals staged a hit-and-run attack on one of Junblatt's positions in the Al-Hamra section of West Beirut. The results are not yet known.

In another development, the fighting between Amal and Palestinian gunmen in the Sabra camp eased a short while ago after several attempts by the Coordination Committee to contain the clashes.

Syrian Troops Explore Duhur al-Shuwayr Area

NC261306 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] A Voice of Lebanon correspondent has learned that a number of Syrian officers explored the Duhur al-Shuwayr area yesterday, and established a center in the periphery of (?Qasr al-Mukarzil). Our correspondent has also noted about 20 tanks moving between Bulunya, Duhur al-Shuwayr, and Al-Khinsharah. Some are concerned over a tendency to escalate the situation and to intensify the shelling of residential areas.

Khaddam Returns With Al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN251822 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this evening following a brief working visit to the Libyan Arab Jamairiyah where he met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and conveyed to him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah and Syria's stand with all its resources alongside the Jamahiriyah in confronting this aggressive provocation, which is directed at the entire Arab nation and constitutes a dangerous threat to world peace and security.

The tense situation resulting from the U.S. aggressive provocative acts and ways to confront them were discussed. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asked 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to convey a reply message to President Hafiz al-Asad. Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Munir Barikhan, head of the Syrian Arab relations office in Tripoli, attended the meeting.

The vice president arrived in Tripoli this morning and was received by Maj 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, the head of the Syrian Arab relations office, and the office staff.

'Source' Condemns U.S. 'Aggression' Against Libya

JN251801 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following: The recent U.S. military aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is conclusive evidence of the Washington administration's determination to continue to carry out its policies aimed at imposing its influence and hegemony in the world. While strongly condemning this brutal imperialist aggression and considering it direct aggression against it and the Arab nation and a threat to the security and safety of all peoples loving freedom and peace, Syria affirms its complete solidarity and firm stand alongside the people and Government of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. At the same time, Syria warns the United States of the gravity of this foolhardy policy exposing international peace and security to the gravest dangers.

These aggressive acts, which come after numerous provocations, are in terms of trend and objectives a link in the series of acts and practices which U.S. imperialism is carrying out with the aim of striking at Arab steadfast forces and distracting world public opinion from what Israel is planning against the Arab nation.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on Arab and friendly governments and all peace-loving peoples to stand alongside the Libyan Arab people with all their resources to confront this imperialist aggression.

Radio on U.S. Objectives

JN251806 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers, U.S. Navy planes yesterday raided Libyan targets in the Libyan Gulf of Sidra. The Arab citizen did not need and will not need any evidence that U.S. imperialism is using premediatated aggression against the Arab nation. Nevertheless, the United States provided this dangerous aggressive evidence last night. The Arab citizen everywhere knows the main objectives of the U.S.-Israeli plan in the Arab homeland, particularly the two objectives of this plan which have been put in practice by the United States. These two objectives are: First, liquidating the Palestine question in accordance with U.S.-Israeli terms, that is, Judaizing all of Arab Palestine along with other Arab territories that Israel wants; and second, imposing absolute U.S. hegemony on the Middle East, particularly the Arab homeland, some of whose countries are, with the help of God and the determination of the Arab people, still inaccessible to this U.S. hegemony.

As for the first U.S. objective, which is the liquidation of the Palestine question, it requires striking at Arab Syria, which is seeking strategic parity under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. This also requires striking at all Arab nationalist forces rallying around Arab Syria on the road to regaining the Palestinian national rights and the occupied Arab territory. The United States tries to achieve this objective indirectly, that is, through the main U.S. base in the Middle East, Israel. This is in addition to U.S. imperialism's pressures on Syria in many Arab arenas. This is the U.S. plan to liquidate the Palestine question.

As for the imposition of U.S. hegemony on the Arab homeland, this objective requires striking at Arab Syria and the Libyan Jamahiriyah at the same time. This is what the United States has actually begun to do with last night's air aggression against Libyan Arab targets. The question now is: Does not the United States realize the gravity of what it is doing? The answer is yes. It realizes it. However, the United States also realizes that it is now or never, that is, the United States wants to start its aggressive plan now because time is not on its side; it is on the side of the Arab masses. This time is not being wasted because Arab Syria is achieving strategic balance with the United States' main base, Israel. This, in addition to providing the means to liberate the occupied territory, means reducing the possibilities of U.S. hegemony, which also requires striking at the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The United States surely realizes the gravity of what it is doing. Perhaps the U.S. war secretary, Weinberger, is the one who said that the United States does not work in Libyan waters with closed eyes. The United States then realizes the reality of its practices. However, its realization is limited, narrow, and shortsighted. Although its eyes are not closed, the United States has, according to Weinberger, covered them with a fabric made up of some Arab regimes. The United Sttes does not see the Arab people. More accurately, the United States does not seem to be aware of the fate of the U.S. presence in the Arab homeland, which will be decided by the Arab masses.

People's Assembly Condemns U.S.

JN251907 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly has condemned the United States' aggressive actions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah as well as its aggressive provocations aimed at imposing hegemony over the Arab region and threatening the security and peace of the region and in the world. The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi. A number of ministers attended the session.

During the session, a number of Assembly members condemned the barbaric aggression launched against Libya by the United States as well as the reckless U.S. policy. They also stressed the support of Syria — leadership, people, and government — for the Libyan people's brave confrontation of the U.S. aggression and provocation. The Assembly agreed to send letters in this regard to Arab and international parliaments as well as to the Arab Parliamentary Union and the IPU.

Papers on U.S. 'Aggression'

JN260913 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Let the U.S. Aggression Become a Factor for Pan-Arab Incitement," *AL-BA'TH* says: As a matter of fact, the new U.S. aggression is not directed against the Libyan Jamahiriyah as much as it is directed against the Arab liberation movement. It is obvious that the U.S. scheme is primarily based on liquidating the Arab liberation movement, given that this movement which is continuously gaining momentum has effectively begun to threaten all U.S.-Zionist schemes against our Arabnhomeland. The best evidence of this is what took place in Lebanon. All the U.S. trends seeking to transform Lebanon into a U.S.-Israeli protectorate have been defeated. The new U.S. aggression also took place following Washington's realization that the continued enhancement of the Arab liberation movement means the containment and the toppling of all those who have wagered on the U.S. stand and those whose only concern has become satisfying U.S. policy, even if this takes place at the expense of their interests and their peoples. The Egyptian regime is a vivid example of this.

AL-BA'TH adds: With its new aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the U.S. Administration will be committing the same mistake it committed when it tried to destroy Lebanon and its national forces. Instead of attaining all that it sought to achieve, the U.S. Administration lost everything and the national forces have become the basic and influential forces in the Lebanese arena. They are the forces which have transformed southern Lebanon into a graveyard for the Israeli forces.

The Arab national forces, which reject the U.S. logic based on the principle of giving in to the fait accompli and to the will of the aggressor, will confront, as they did before, all the liquidatory attempts. The Libyan Jamahiriyah has the right to reply to any U.S. aggression and to ask the Arabs to support it in its battle, particularly that the hostile U.S. policy is not only directed agaisnt Libya but also against the entire Arab nation. The unwavering U.S. stand toward the Arab-Zionist conflict is practical evidence of what we say.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In any case, we believe that although the U.S. aggression has been accurately programmed it will fail completely because our Arab masses' determination to stand fast and fight is stronger by far than the sophisticated U.S. war machine.

Under the headline "Disappointment and Frustration Face the New U.S. Aggression," *AL-THAWRAH* says: The provocative acts initiated by the United States against Libya yesterday once again highlight the blatantly inimical nature of the U.S. policy in the region and its hostility toward the Arab nation, and its complete endorsement of the policy of terrorism and the protection of the aggressors. It is no longer a secret that the objectives of U.S. aggression are to inspire the forces of capitulation, give them new momentum, scare the forces of steadfastness and confrontation and force them to abandon their stands that are hostile to the Camp David accords and the policy of aggression and expansion, and to check the collapse of U.S. Middle East policy.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: That's why the United States now mobilizes its fleets east of the Mediterranean, escalates the frenzy of its aggression and the hysteria of war against Libya, and instructs Israel to threaten Syria. This is all taking place to save the capitulatory course and kindle the enthusiasm of its rusted tools, and spread terror and fear among those who oppose it. We must affirm in this respect that the language of threats and aggression will not rescue the Camp David course from the gloomy fate that awaits it in Egypt and the Arab homeland. The great Egyptian people have spoken their mind on the Camp David course and the Arab nation has said its final word on this conspiracy, and the death sentence was passed on this course and the regime which champions it in Egypt. The United States will not succeed in prolonging the life of this vicious colonialist conspiracy. The mobilization of fleets and sabre-rattling will not infuse life into the capitulatory course and its tools and will not scare the forces of Arab steadfastness, chief among which is militant Syria. Events will show that the course of steadfastness which has inflicted defeat on U.S. political plans will inevitably defeat the U.S. aggression. The United States will only suffer frustration and defeat.

Government Position Assessed on U.S.-Libya Conflict

TA251616 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Excerpts] Israel this morning hurried to welcome the actions of the U.S. task force near the Libyan coast, and was probably the first country to do so. The official announcements issued by the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry mainly emphasize the practical justification for the U.S. operation. However, in reading between the lines one surely feels the great deal of satisfaction reflected in the remarks of the decisionmakers in Jerusalem: The United States is finally acting upon old threats and launching a real operation against Al-Qadhdhafi's regime in Libya.

Last night Washington transmitted a report to Jerusalem via its embassy in Israel about the hostilities in the Gulf of Sidra and it seems that the two countries, which are bound by a strategic cooperation agreement, will continue to have this channel of information. Let us memtion that the U.S. pilots are now getting their first operational experience in fighting against Soviet SAM-5's, experience which will probably interest several elements in Israel, as well.

Finally, despite the overt Israeli support for the U.S. operation, political circles stress that Israel plays only the role of an observer in these recent developments. This is a pure Libyan-U.S. matter, we were told, and the desire to act against Al-Qadhdhafi stems, first and foremost, from a clear U.S. interest.

Peres Sees No Current Syrian Decision To Attack

TA251750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] This evening, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he does not believe that there is a Syrian decision at this moment to attack Israel because Al-Asad is not certain that he can beat us. However, Mr Peres did say that he is not proposing that we get drawn into rhetorics and making threats on this matter. Mr Peres was speaking to authors and intellectuals at the Labor Party's Milo Club in Tel Aviv.

[Begin Peres recording] It is my belief that at this moment there is no Syrian decision to attack Israel. That is my belief. However, under no circumstances whatsoever would I rely on this belief, nor would I suggest that others rely on it. What I would suggest is that in the field itself we exhibit maximal alert. Your son, and other young people in the IDF, must be very alert and serious. In contrast to this, I would suggest that we do not enter into rhetorics which could work up emotions, that is, one person says something, so does another, this one replies, the other attacks, before anyone actually realizes [sentence as received]. Rhetoric creates strategy and therefore I am against threats, I am against floods of verbosity; I am in favor of maximal restraint, but also alertness. Why do I say that at this moment I believe Syria is not going to war? First, because of the economic situation I have described; second, because I believe that Al-Asad does not have the feeling of certainty that he can beat Israel. He is not stupid. He is not looking for a blow on the head. I also believe that at this moment the Russians will not push for a war. I must also point out that so far the Russian reaction to the Libyan affair has been very, very economical [last word in English] not only in acts, even in words. [end recording]

Peres Takes 'Positive' View of Hassan II Proposal

TA260759 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 86 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem take a positive view of King Hassan II's initiative to bring about a meeting between an Arab leader and the Israeli prime minister to hear Israel's reaction to the FES plan.

The office of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced yesterday that "the prime minister has always welcomed and will continue to welcome any direct contact between us and Arab leaders."

The Foreign Ministry has not issued an official reaction to the Moroccan monarch's statements, but Foreign Ministry sources have said that Israel has always invited Arab leaders to direct negotiations without preconditions. This invitation still stands.

Egyptian Tabah Delegation Arrives; Differences Remain

TA260526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The Egyptian delegation for talks with Israel arrived here last night. The talks covering the Tabah border dispute and bilateral relations are to resume today in Herzliyya. Israel Radio's political correspondent says there are basic disagreements over the question to be put to the arbitrator, who is to judge the Tabah case. There are also differences about arrangements to be made there after the case is decided. Foreign Ministry sources said these issues would have to be decided at the political level.

FRG To Commit 'Substantial' Funds to Mideast Plan

TA210827 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Mar 86 p 1

[Report by Benny Morris]

[Text] West Germany has given Israel something approaching a commitment to contribute substantial funds to Prime Minister Peres's "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East, it has been learned. It is the first major Western industrial state to have done so."

A German statement of readiness to contribute was made by Chancellor Helmut Kohl during his meeting with Peres in Stockholm last weekend, where the two leaders attended the funeral of Sweden's assassinated Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Peres first proposed the plan during the visit to Jerusalem a fortnight ago of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard

Murphy. Murphy reportedly liked what he heard and took the proposal back with him to Washington, where it is now being considered by top administration officials. The initial official American response is expected to be conveyed to Peres by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz when the prime minister visits Washington at the beginning of April.

Japanese and Italian leaders who came to Stockholm also reportedly expressed "interest" in Peres's idea, which the Prime Minister's Office regards as a complement to the diplomatic process rather than as a substitute for it. The essence of the plan is that the seven major Western industrial giants finance joint Israeli-Arab and inter-Arab development projects which would give the countries in the region a vested interest in peace and cooperation.

Arab Countries Secretly Sending Money For Mosque

TA230740 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 86 p 6

[Report by Hayim Handwerker]

[Text] Some of the financial backing for the work currently being done on the Hasan Bakk Mosque on the dividing line between Tel Aviv and Yafo comes from Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries. This has been reported to the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent by Arab activists in Yafo.

They said the money is being transferred through liaison people in the West Bank, who maintain routine contact with these countries, to the board of guardians in Yafo which is responsible for the work of renovating the mosque. The authorities know about this, but they prefer to turn a blind eye because the PLO is not involved.

An establishment source keeping a close watch over what is happening in Yafo has confirmed that reports of this type have indeed reached him, but this is not being regarded as something negative because, according to the reports, the money comes from moderate countries.

Members of the board of guardians have signed a contract with the building contractor, who is doing the second stage of the renovation work on the Hasan Bakk Mosque, for a total sum of $180,000, although they only have $50,000, which comes from contributions and the allocation from the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The chairman of the Yafo board of guardians, Ahmad (Fanjari), has denied that money has been received from Arab countries. According to our agreement with the government, he said, we are not allowed to accept money from abroad. We have managed to get this money from contributions from Israel. It is true that we have also received money from people in the West Bank, but this is not from other countries.

Dr Nisim Dana, the director of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Minorities Division, reacted by saying that the issue has been studied by the authorities and it was found that there is nothing wrong with the project's sources of financial backing. Dana refused to comment on the question of whether the money comes from Arab countries.

It will be noted that about 3 years ago the former chairman of the board of guardians, 'Abd (Kabub), appealed in a radio broadcast to Arab countries with a request that they contribute toward the renovation of the mosque.

ASL Soldiers Kill Terrorist After Katyusha Firing

TA251016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] A terrorist who fired a katyusha rocket at the security zone in southern Lebanon was killed by army of southern Lebanon [ASL] soldiers last night. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that after the rocket was fired, soldiers manning ASL posts opened fire. In searches conducted this morning the katyusha launcher was found with the body of the terrorist near by. Our correspondent notes that near the launcher there were several booby-trapped charges, apparently meant to hit the searching forces.

Katyushas Fired at Galilee as Amal Revenge

TA251515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] This morning, several katyusha rockets fell on the Galilee panhandle. There are no casualties, nor is there any damage. The security forces have searched the area.

The commander of the Amal organization in southern Lebanon, Mahmud Faqih, has said that his personnel fired the katyusha rockets at Israel as revenge for the shelling of Al-Nabatiyah yesterday by members of the army of southern Lebanon. Three people were killed in the shelling and dozens were wounded.

IDF Demands Tighter Control of ASL

TA251236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] IDF liaison officers in southern Lebanon demand that the commander of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] tighten his control over his officers after they opened fire on Shi'ite villages north of the security zone on several occasions without his permission. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that over the last few months there have been several such incidents which were initiated by officers in the field. In yesterday's shelling of the Al-Nabatiyah market, 3 people were killed and 24 were wounded. A similar incident occurred a month ago when the city of Tyre was shelled. General Lahd, the commander of the ASL, clarified that he will court-martial ASL officers who violate the orders on opening fire.

Security Forces Uncover Fatah-linked Terrorists

TA251520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The security forces and the Sharon District police have uncovered a large terrorist squad linked to the Fatah organization, whose members are accused of attempted attack and the stockpiling of weapons and explosive materiel.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this involves dozens of youths living in the Small Triangle and Galilee. Rifles, submachine guns, pistols, explosive charges, and detonators were found in their possession.

Charge sheets have been issued against seven of them by the military court in Lod. The squad members also had connections with terrorists in Judaea and Samaria. Among other things, they are attributed with athe attempt to place an explosive charge in the Tel Aviv central bus Station 2 years ago and other attempts to place explosive charges in private homes in Petah Tiqva and Bene Beraq. The squad members also tried to set an ambush for a passenger bus that passes through the trans-Samarian highway near Kafr Qasim.

Radio Cites Amal on Arrests of 'Arafat Followers

TA251525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Shi'ite Amal militia says it is holding three members of Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization. Fatah had claimed that the three were killed in an attempt to cross into Israel last week. Amal officials said the three Palestinians were arrested for questioning by Amal in Lebanon's southern port of Tyre. A Fatah communique had claimed that four Israeli soldiers were also killed in the alleged raid, but Israeli military sources said there was no such attack last Friday.

OAU Condemns U.S. For 'Hostilities' With Libya

AB261643 Paris AFP in English 1557 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa, March 26 (AFP) — The Organization of African Unity (OAU) expressed "deep concern" on Wednesday over what it called the "unequal hostilities" between the United States and Libya in the Gulf of Sidra, and said it "deplored" Washington's attitude in the conflict.

In a statement released at its headquarters here, the pan-African body said it "deplores the attitude of the United States of America and urges it, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, to exercise restraint."

Washington should "refrain from any further acts which might be considered, in the present circumstances, as a deliberate shoe of strength directed against Libya," the statement went on.

Libya, an OAU member-state, had "the right to defend" the Gulf of Sidra which had been considered an integral part of its territorial waters since 1973, "until a fair and legal solution" determines whether or not it is open to international navigation, the statement added.

Earlier this month the OAU Council of Ministers had warned against the dangers of U.S. military maneuvers in progress in the Mediterranean off Libya.

Meanwhile Ethiopia, which is linked with Libya in a treaty of friendship and cooperation, also voiced condemnation of the United States for "acts of military provocation and aggression."

It described the U.S. military action as "unwarranted attacks on an independent nation."

In the Indian Ocean, government-owned *SEYCHELLES WEEKEND NATION* newspaper said: "When the self-confessed champions of the battle against terrorism themselves not only stoop to such activities in the name of democracy and freedom, but also accuse those they terrorize of state terrorism, then the poor and weak of the world can only look to the future with foreboding."

The paper ctied U.S. support for guerrilla groups in Angola and Nicaragua as examples of U.S. destabilization campaigns.

LIBYA

Reportage on Threats Against U.S. Interests Abroad

Aide to Al-Qadhdhafi
AU251552 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Paris, March 25 (AFP) — Current clashes in the Gulf of Sidra between U.S. and Libyan forces will lead to Libyan reprisals against U.S. interests the world over, a Libyan official said today. "The new (U.S.) aggression perpetrated against the Libyan people will result in reprisals against U.S. interests, either in the Arab world or elsewhere," Muftah Muhammad Allaji [spelling as received] told the RTL radio station.

Mr. Allaji, a spokesman for Libya's official JANA news agency and known to be a close aide of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, said that "the entire Arab nation backs Libya." "The Arab nation," he said, "is capable of dealing decisive blows to U.S. interests in the Arab world or anywhere else." "The U.S. aggression will result in speeding up the revolution in the Arab world that will allow it freedom from American domination," he said, adding that "the Arab nation is capable of transforming itself into suicide commandos" to hit out at U.S. interests.

VOGAH Urges Action
LD251909 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1808 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] To the masses of our Arab nation: Valiant men, protectors of dens, those who are positioned at the northern gate of the Jamahiriyah and on the hills of the line of death at the Gulf of Sidra have added today to Arab glory another new glory. They opposed U.S. aircraft and they made the skies used by them [U.S. aircraft] a piece of hell and burning flames. The U.S. aircraft fled in front of Arab eagles. So far, 3 U.S. aircraft were destroyed.

O masses of our Arab nation: A national earthquake is expected now so that when the morning comes all the world will see the uproar of the masses of our nation from the Mediterranean to the Gulf, in every city and town, in the countryside, hurrying toward the battlefield and lining up for war against the United States.

Oil that is being exploited and plundered by the United States should be destroyed now. U.S. bases in the Arab world should be invaded now. The U.S. spies who are disguised as experts and advisers should be hanged to death now, wherever they are in the Arab world.

The Egypt of 'Abd al-Nasir fought in 1956 with its people and the Arab nation. Let the war against the United States now be the suitable opportunity to destroy the United States at the hand of the Arab nation, at the forefront of which stands the valiant Libyan Arab people. Let every border in the Arab world, starting from the line of death in the Mediterranean, be a border of death at which the skulls of arrogant imperialists are destroyed. Let the oath of this nation's men and women be that no invader should return to the spot from which he came. Let no Arab grain of sand fall under the feet of the invaders. Glory to the Arab nation; glory and honor to the Arab soil; preservation and sovreignty to the Arab sky; eternity to the brave Arab men who shot down and destroyed U.S. aircraft.

'Suicide Squads,' 'Human Bombs'
LD261454 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1305 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] O masses of our Arab nation. Reagan's terrorist administration is blatantly and brazenly challenging us with its fleets, battleships, and aircraft and with all the advanced and sophisticated equipment of the U.S. war machine. It is challenging us in an attempt to intimidate us and break our will. It imagines that we shall abandon our stances and principles and abandon our resistance against it and its capitulationist plans in the Arab region and throughout the world. The U.S. terrorist Administration has not learned the lessons that the nations of the world have taught it — the lessons which rubbed the ugly and brazen face of America in the mud.

We do not fear America. We do not fear its fleets, battleships and terrorist aircraft. As always, we will lie in wait for the U.S. power mania. Our nation has never knelt before the U.S. arrogance. A nation whose youth has been transformed into human bombs does not know retreat. Let the Reagan administration remember the lesson of Lebanon; not long ago its soldiers and fleets fled in shame as a result of the heroic martyrdom-seeking operations by the sons of our Arab people.

O our Arab masses. America found nothing on our Arab Libyan territory, in our waters, and particularly in the Gulf of Defiance — the Gulf of Sidra — except bombs and missiles pursuing it wherever it was. O our Arab masses. There are U.S. Embassies, interests and companies of terror before you, spying on you and conspiring against your existence and plundering your wealth and wanting to humiliate you. Do you accept that?

Let the Arab nation be transformed in its entirety into suicide squads and human bombs, missiles and aircraft to deter and resist terrorism and to destroy it for good. Our missiles and our heroes are chasing the U.S. terrorists whenever the latter think of overstepping the Line of Death in the Gulf of Sidra.

O heroes of our Arab nation. Let your missiles and suicide cells chase the U.S. terrorist Embassies and interests wherever they may be. Victory is always for the peoples. Our Arab nation will inevitably triumph. Shame on America.

Fatah Spokesman
LD260915 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0801 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar JANA — The official spokesman of the Palestinian Liberation Movement, Fatah -- the Revolutionary Council — has stated that the premeditated and perfidious aggression carried out by American imperialism against the Gulf of Sidra has clearly shown the extent of American brazeness, stupidity, piracy, and organized international terrorism.

The spokesman of the Palestinian Liberation Movement, Fatah — the Revolutionary Council — has stressed that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, with its revolution, its historical leadership and its brave and steadfast people in the face of the American schemes, will surely be able to resist the aggression. He added: Our Fatah movement — the Revolutionary Council — declares its stand by the side of the Libyan revolution and will place all its potential in its service. It considers all American imperialist interests, wherever they are, as a target for our revolutionaries.

The spokesman has called on all forces of goodness and all Arab revolutionary forces, Arab nationalist regimes and masses of our struggling nation to stand by the side of the struggle of the Libyan Arab people and to contribute with all their capabilities to the defeat of aggression and to the destruction of imperialism.

Iraqi Groups in West Europe

LD261012 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Mar (JANA) — The branches of the movement of the revolutionary committees of Iraq in West Germany and Sweden, issued a statement yesterday which reads: We have repeatedly warned President Reagan during the presence of the U.S. 6th Fleet off the Libyan shores that any crossing of the Line of Death would be a signal for our movement to escalate suicide operations against U.S. forces and establishments anywhere in the world. Now the time has arrived for all revolutionary forces of the world, for members of the Pan-Arab Command of the Leadership of the Revolutionary Forces and members of the International Center Resisting Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, and Reaction, and for liberations movements to escalate their suicide operations everywhere against American imperialist interests and against their military establishments because the imperialist attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is in fact an fierce attack against all revolutionary forces of the world.

Let America understand once again that the Great 1 September Revolution and its historic leadership under the command of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is supported by strong men who are determined to teach American imperialism a new, unforgettable lesson. Free men of the world everywhere, let us defend this revolution, this revolution which is aimed at defending weak peoples. We are certain of victory.

'Arab Revolutionary Force' in Turkey

LD260316 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0207 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Message from unidentified spokesman of the "Arab Revolutionary Force in Turkey" — live]

[Text] Brother leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution: We are the Arab Revolutionary Force in Turkey. We declare our continuous alliance with, and support for, the heroic Libyan Arab people in their brave stand in the face of the leader of international terrorism — the United States. We stress to you that the aggression against the Libyan Arab people represents an aggression against the Arab nation, the Islamic world, and all the struggling peace-loving peoples. Your brave stand in the face of U.S. arrogance is the beginning of the wronged peoples' march toward teaching the United States a lesson on the meaning of the struggle for freedom and liberty.

We declare our readiness to become fighters for freedom and for defending the Jamahiriyah, and to attack the dens of U.S. imperialism and the spies of its intelligence organization everywhere in the world. March forward. We are with you.

'Islamic Progressive Force' in Turkey

LD262035 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0159 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Message from a spokesman of "The Islamic Progressive Force in Turkey" — live]

[Text] Muslim revolutionary brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1 September Islamic Revolution: What U.S. imperialism is doing by way of (?aggressions) against the Muslim Libyan people is a violation of the freedom of Muslims everywhere. Your brave stand in the face of the forces of injustice and aggression represented by the fleets of the leader of U.S. international terrorism, is considered as a defense of Islam everywhere.

We are the active force of the Muslims in Turkey, and declare that we stand by you and are prepared to defend Islam by striking at U.S. interests wherever they might be and to implement the order of death defending freedom and Islam. March forward and glory be for Islam and annihilation for the United States.

Reportage, Commentary on Gulf of Sidra Events

U.S. Aircraft Chase Journalists' Plane

LD261129 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1113 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar (JANA) — Aircraft from the U.S. 6th fleet currently off the Libyan shores pursued a civilian plane which was carrying a number of radio reporters and photographers yesterday. The American warplanes warned the civilian airline and forced it to keep out out the area.

JANA has already confirmed that U.S. 6th Fleet aircraft has pursued civil airlines crossing from Europe to Africa and used them as a pretext for infiltrating Libyan Arab airspace to carry out their premeditated aggressive aims against the Libyan Arab people.

Commentary on U.S. 'Defeat'

LD251619 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Unattributed commentary from the "Spotlights" program]

[Excerpt] Once more the Libyan Arab People have proven themselves capable of accepting the most ferocious challenges and of tackling the most ferocious degree of world imperialist arrogance. Once more the Libyan Arab people have proven their honesty in translating words into deeds, which shake the earth under the feet of the hordes of invaders, and into fire which pours venom of its wrath on their forces, inflicting losses on them and forcing them to retreat in shame, disgrace and defeat.

Today, the Libyan Arab people have become the pride of the peoples struggling against U.S. imperialism. The Great 1 September Revolution has affirmed in a manner which leaves no room for doubt that it leads firmly and efficiently the world liberation movement and that it is a strong, swift and solid bastion in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, fascism and Zionism and all the forces of oppression, and that it will lead them inevitably to clear victory, because it possesses the guide, the course and the determination.

Over the proud Gulf of Sidra wave after wave of the hoards of aggressors have been foundering under the withering fire of the Libyan Arab sky eagles, with the waters of this homeland blazing around them, raging with a sacred rancor fanned by the spirit of revolution that flares in the heart of every Libyan against every treacherous aggressor and by the continuous exhortation of the Great 1 September Revolution that there can be no life with enslavement and no sovereignty under thw shadow of threats.

As they face up to America, the Libyan Arab people provide lessons about the ability of the peoples who adhere to the principle of living in dignity and freedom or dying on their feet and who apply this principle to undermine all the calculations based on the arrogance of power. Where is America's might today? Where are its fleets and aircraft carriers? They have turned back licking the wounds of defeat and frustration.

The Libyan Arab people no longer need to prove that the Gulf of Sidra is an indivisible part of Libyan Arab territory. The whole world today realizes this geographic fact and understands its national dimension and its organic bond with our sovereignty over our land, water and air space. What is odd indeed is for a treacherous force to come from beyond the oceans, led by an actor who is mad with the arrogance of power and who has appointed himself an arbiter in matters affecting the causes of peoples and a policeman of the world's hotspots, defining for everyone their limits but forgetting to curb himself and define the sphere of his own might, and issuing his illusionary verdict and false claim that the Gulf of Sidra is international waters and that he has the right to sail in it with his Sixth Fleet vessels and roam about as he likes and whenever he likes, thus flouting the laws of oceans, seas, and internal bays and departing from the natural principle of the peoples' right to sovereignty over their territorial waters, air space and lands.

Prompted by this unaccepted fallacy, and driven by the arrogance of power and megalomania coupled with rancor against the historic leadership of the Great 1 September Revolution — which has driven the bases of U.S. imperialism from Libyan Arab territory and has hindered the U.S. imperialist march to occupy the Arab homeland and to control its wealth — driven and prompted by the above, Reagan has embarked on seizing opportunities and fabricating excuses and falsifying justifications and levelling false charges against the Libyan Arab people and their heroic revolutionary leadership, to amass his Sixth Fleet and aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean and to stage provocative and aggressive maneuvers off the Libyan arab shores and on our eastern borders.

U.S. terrorism went so far as to confront the Libyan Arab people militarily in the Gulf of Sidra in August 1981, and this made the world realize then the truth about the situation and about U.S. aggressive intentions and strategy which is aimed at imposing U.S. hegemony over the Arab region. Thereupon, the peoples and their forces throughout the world rose to express solidarity with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah against U.S. arrogance and terrorism and to affirm Libya's right to its sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra and its natural right to self-defense.

It was in light of this that the Libyan Arab people decided to build up their military might, which has become part of the logic of the age, if not the basic logic of establishing, defending and dying for their rights, and to totally transform themselves into an armed people, as it has become impossible for us to have any dialogue with U.S. statesmen other than that of the logic of force and the logic of military force, just as the commander of the Great 1 September Revolution said on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the revolution and has repeatedly affirmed to the whole world: Without military might, the Gulf of Sidra cannot be defended and America will not hesitate to enter and occupy it unless prevented from doing so by an effective and active forces. Today, U.S. imperialism has been escalating its military aggression against the Libyan Arab people in the Gulf of Sidra, believing that the proud Libyan people would be terrified of its warships, aircraft and missiles and thus surrender to a fait accompli and would accept threats to their sovereignty over their territorial waters, skies and territorial integrity. However, the Libyan people laid in wait and their air defenses shot down three U.S. transgressor planes. Thus the Libyan Arab people rubbed America's arrogant nose in the mud of the waters of the Gulf of Sidra, the Gulf of Blood and Death, thereby affirming its words by deeds. They will lie in wait for every treacherous aggressor.

Envoy in Turkey on Attack

LD251323 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1230 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Ankara, 25 Mar (ANATOLIA) — Muhammad 'Abd al-Malik, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Ankara, said in connection with the conflict between the United States and Libya that "this could be the beginning of a war." In answering an ANATOLIA agency correspondent's questions today, 'Abd al-Malik said that "they attacked us; we acted in defense."

'Abd al-Malik, the secretary of the People's Bureau, said that the crisis between the two countries had intensified following the bombardment of civilian residential areas in the vicinity of the town of Surt by U.S. aircraft and added: "At this moment we do not know the extent of the damage caused in the region as a result of the bombardment. Our anti-aircraft batteries hit back during the bombardment and shot down three U.S. aircraft. As our leader Al-Qadhdhafi has stated: Libya's stand is clear. If they cross the line of death, we shall defend ourselves."

Muhammad 'Abd al-Malik said that they know that the U.S. maneuvers will continue to the end of the current month and that at this moment life in Libya is normal.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Summons Foreign Envoys

LD251751 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1606 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli 25 Mar (JANA) — The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned representatives of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at midday today and acquainted them with the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab people.

The committee told the ambassadors that what is currently taking place is an aggression from a big power against a small country, which is a part of the Arab nation and a member of the United Nations.

It said that Libya will confront this aggression with all its means.

The committee pointed out the peace and security of the Mediterranean and the countries overlooking it have come into real danger from the U.S. aggression, particularly following the firing of U.S. missiles toward Libyan territory and from inside Libyan territorial waters.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison affirmed to the heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Jamahiriyah that the Gulf of Sidra is territorial waters, that we will die for it, and that there will be no capitulation.

It pointed out that world peace is being threatened seriously, because we in the Jamahiriyah will consider any U.S. target and the U.S. and Mediterranean bases hostile targets which we will confront.

The committee pointed out that the U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah threatens the peace and safety of crossing planes and ships, and that the U.S. is exploiting this to realize its ambitions of attacking Libyan territory.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison affirmed to the heads of the diplomatic missions that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will continue its brave opposition against U.S. hostility.

We affirm that the Gulf of Sidra is Libyan territorial waters and is considered as Libyan soil; it is dividing Libya into two parts, and whoever enters it is trying to split the country in two, and in no circumstances would any foreign power be allowed to enter the gulf.

It pointed out that the Basic People's Congresses have decided to confront the aggression directed against it... [JANA ellipsis]

The brother leader has repeatedly warned the United States and the European countries that we are prepared to die for the Gulf of Sidra and that it could turn into a red gulf. That is what is currently happening.

Further Details

LD260016 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned Arab and African ambassadors and the ambassadors of the Latin American and West European countries and the countries of the socialist group accredited to the Jamahiriyah, and informed them about the following situation:

Concerning the U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah: First, what is happening now is an aggression by a big country against a small country;

Second, Libya will combat this aggression using its right to self-defense and to protect its security and the safety of its territories;

Third, the security of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean countries is now facing a real danger because of the U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah;

Fourth, what is currently happening is actually a direct aggression by the United States against a UN member-country;

Fifth, we wonder what will happen after American rockets were fired at the Libyan land and inside Libyan territorial waters;

Sixth, Libya warns that peace is actually threatened and that during our resistance to this aggression we will consider any U.S. target and the American and NATO bases as hostile;

Seventh, the Gulf of Sidra is Libyan territorial waters and death will be the fate of whoever crosses into it. We will never retreat from this position, whatever the price might be;

Eighth, the U.S. aggression has endangered the safety of even civilian airliners and ships, and is now exploiting the passage of civilian airliners to and from Europe and Africa for the achievement of its goals of aggression against the Libyan Arab territories.

Soviet UN Envoy Condemns U.S. Military Actions

LD260037 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to the United Nations has condemned the U.S. military aggression against the Jamahiriyah. He reaffirmed that this aggression is a clear violation of international law. The Soviet ambassador, in a statement made today in New York, said that the U.S. premeditated military escalation against the Jamahiriyah is because of the Jamahiriyah's brave and principled attitudes vis-a-vis the Arab issue and questions of liberation the world over — attitudes which are not to the liking of the imperialist U.S. Government.

The Soviet ambassador referred to U.S. hypocrisy which was apparent in the Reagan administration's claim of protecting navigation in the Mediterranean and this administration's flagrant violation of Soviet and Bulgarian territorial waters in the Black Sea. The ambassador wondered: Who has asked the United States to protect navigation? Who has asked the United States to install itself as a police guard in the region? How can small Libya threaten the United States?

Tripoli TV Cites USSR's Lomeyko on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD260046 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Vladimir Lomeyko, head of the press section at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said the Soviet Union denounces and is extremely concerned at the U.S. armed aggression against the Jamahiriyah. At a press conference in Moscow today, he said the real motive behind this oppressive outrage is implementation of the old plans of the United States aimed at destablizing the region. Vladimir Lomeyko pointed out that Washington's military actions are a violation of the simplest bases of international law and a phenomenon of the policy of official terrorism.

The head of the press section at the Soviet Foreign Ministry reaffirmed that it is the duty of the peace-loving forces of the world to raise their voices and to stand by the Libyan Arab people who have become the victim of Washington's aggression and irresponsible policy which threatens not only the Mediterranean region but also world peace.

Al-Qadhdhafi Visits Tripoli International Fair

LD260003 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution toured the Tripoli International Fair this evening. During this tour he visited the pavilion of Libyan-Maltese joint industries and some national pavilions. The brother leader was accompanied on this tour by a large number of international pressmen and agency correspondents. Upon arrival at the Tripoli International Fair, the brother leader was greeted by revolutionary chants for a long life of the Great Al- Fatih Revolution and its brave leader, reaffirming the resolve and steadfastness of the Libyan Arab people against all the U.S. provocative campaigns and the inevitability of the downfall of U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and reaction.

The masses which filled the Tripoli International Fair then staged a huge demonstration of anger condemning the U.S. provocative campaigns. Their revolutionary chantings reaffirmed these masses' readiness to fight and carry out the order of death in defense of every inch of Libyan Arab territory and territorial waters. The brother leader of the revolution shook hands with ambassadors and diplomats accredited to the Jamahiriyah who were at the fair.

Reportage on Messages of Support for Al-Qadhdhafi

Syrian, YAR Presidents Telephone

LD252313 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The president of the Syrian Arab Republic contacted the brother leader of the revolution by phone and enquired about the latest development in the current situation. During this telephone contact the Syrian president reaffirmed that the Syrian Arab people place all their capabilities at the disposal of their brothers the Arab people in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Yemeni Arab Republic President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said the Arab people in North Yemen follow with pride the stance of the Libyan Arab people in their brave resistance against U.S. aggression. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and Colonel Salih agreed to continue the contact between them to follow up the development of the current sitaution.

[Begin recording of telephone conversation between Al-Qadhdhafi and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih] [Salih] By God [words indistinct] great interest in the [words indistinct] the United States against the Libyan Arab territories and we feel that Libya is an indivisible part of the Arab nation; it is the point of the bayonet of the Arab Nation.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] [Words indistinct]

[Salih] Any enemy trying to violate territories [words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No doubt that is true.

[Salih] God willing you will have assuring news.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] At any rate, we are prepared and ready and are continuing our resistance with bravery [words indistinct] but this proves that there is but one Arab nation and the Americans cannot deal with every part of the Arab nation individually. Your words, brother president, reaffirm this fact — this unity of the Arab nation. Your pan-Arab and honorable stance. [incomplete sentence as heard] On every occasion you were the first to stand by your brothers in the Jamahiriyah. This is what is required of you.

[Salih] [Words indistinct] when I say that we are on the side of Libya and any Arab country, I do not say so for propaganda reasons or for gain; these words [words indistinct] with the policy and dignity and honor of Libya, and Libya is an indivisible part of the Arab nation. Anything that happens in Libya we regard as happening in the Yemen and we regard Libya's resistance as a source of pride for the Arab nation because Libya is confronting the biggest state in the world — America. [Words indistinct] and morale and we are confident that you are capable of checking any aggression.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Brother 'Ali, I am grateful. We are recording a glory for the Arab nation. We will not fail this Arab nation at all. We know you and we know your pan-Arab firm and true attitude; it does not change. Yemen is always the Yemen — it is the cradle of Arabism. It is the starting point for the Arab nation. The Yemen even reached the shores of Africa — and America wants to fight us over them.

[Salih] At any time we are totally ready to meet all your requirements.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We know; God bless you.

[Salih] That is it.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The struggle continues. [end recording]

Further Details

LD251937 Tripoli JANA in English 1846 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 14, Mar 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the Yemen Arab Republic established today a telephone contact with the leader of the revolution to enquire of the developments in the current situation.

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih confirmed the placing of all the capabilities of the Yemen Arab Republic at the disposal of thbe Libyan Arab people. He said: "The Arab people of North Yemen follow up with pride the stance of the Libyan Arab people by bravely confronting U.S. aggression". They agreed upon the continued contacts to follow up the developments in the current situation.

Iranian Prime Minister

LD260329 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Islamic Republic of Iran Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi telephoned Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud last evening. In this telephone call, the Iranian prime minister praised the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people's bravery in the face of the U.S. aggression. He said this bravery has shown the world and given many people hope that they can stand up to the United States.

The Iranian prime minister stressed that the Iranian People's internal and external resources are at the fraternal Libyan Arab people's disposal. Engineer Musavi added that Iran considers any aggression against Libya as an aggression against Iran.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd

LD252216 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2154 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] King Fahd of Saudi Arabia contacted the brother leader of the revolution this evening and asked about the current situation. He affirmed Saudi Arabia's stand on the side of and support for the people of the Jamahiriyah in its confrontation with U.S. aggression and placed all the potentials of the Arab Saudi people on the side of the Arab people in the Jamahiriyah. King Fahd also emphasized that the Arab nation will triumph over the vicious U.S. aggression.

Morocco's King Hassan

LD252312 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a cable from King Hassan II of Morocco, in which he pointed out that the Moroccan people stand by and are in full solidarity with their brothers, the Libyan Arab people in their confrontation of the treacherous U.S. aggression.

Heads of Arab Diplomatic Missions

LD251948 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1858 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — A number of heads of Arab diplomatic missions accredited to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah told a JANA correspondent that their countries stand by Libya in its brave resistance against the U.S. aggression on its land and territorial waters. The Syrian ambassador reaffirmed that Syria is in solidarity with Libya and stands by it with all its capabilities to check this aggression. The Sudanese ambassador said that it was time that the Arab nation applied the joint defense agreement against this flagrant aggression on account that the United States is an ally of the Zionist enemy and by this flagrant aggression, the United States aims against the entire Arab nation and not the Jamahiriyah alone. He added that his country, people and government, stands with all its power with the Libyan Arab people in their resistance against U.S. imperialism.

The Algerian ambassador declared that his country is placing all its capabilities at the disposal of the Jamahiriyah in its brave resistance against the U.S. aggression on the Libyan Arab land.

The YAR ambassador pointed out that the U.S. imperialist aggression on the Libyan Arab people is an aggression on the Arab nation reaffirming his country's stand by the Libyan Arab people in their brave resistance against the U.S. aggression.

The PDRY ambassador renewed his country's firm stand by the Libyan Arab people in their brave resistance against the U.S. aggression, and reaffirmed his country's readiness to send fighters to the Gulf of Sidra to fight side by side with their Libyan Arab brothers against the arrogance of U.S. imperialism.

DFLP Spokesman

LD251912 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Statement by the "official spokesman" of DFLP — read by announcer]

[Text] The direct military aggression last night against the ships and territory of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah constitute an extremely dangerous threat and a broad escalation of U.S. terrorism against the region, as well as direct support for the Zionist occupation of Arab territories and the aggressive and expansionist policy of Israel. This direct military intervention against the Libyan Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of the U.S. attempts to impose through its war fleets, its complete hegemony over the region as well as conditions of surrender upon our people.

The DFLP declares its complete support, with all its potential, for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in its resistance to Reagan's imperialist and terrorist war, his direct military aggression. The DFLP calls on all Arab forces to hasten to the side of Libya and cut their diplomatic ties with the United States, as well as declare a comprehensive economic boycott, including the closing of their harbors and airports to U.S. ships and aircraft. The unity of the Arab nationalist forces, which expelled U.S. Marines and warships from Lebanon, are also able to defeat the U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah.

[Signed] The DFLP
25 March 1986

VOGAH Cites 25 Mar Attack on U.S. Embassy in Beirut

LD260337 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Beirut was shelled yesterday. An organization called the Arab Revolutionary Forces claimed responsibility for shelling the embassy. In its statement, the organization stressed that the attack is in response to the armed U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab territories.

The organization added in its statement: Our forces shelled the U.S. Embassy in Beirut last evening, which is the den of spying and conspiring against our Arab people in Lebanon and the other Arab countries.

The statement stressed that the shelling expresses the anger of the peoples in the Arab world against U.S. imperialism and their solidarity with the Arab people in Libya and its revolution, and their leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The Arab Revolutionary Forces statement concluded by stressing that its forces will continue to strike at U.S. interests until they put an end to U.S. arrogance.

MAURITANIA

Communique Expresses Support for Libya

AB260920 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued a communique yesterday expressing Mauritania's solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the face of the military action being taken against it. Here is the communique:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is deeply preoccupied with the military action being carried out against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and considers it as the fulfillment of a threat and the use of force against an independent and sovereign state.

It is regrettable that this means, which has never constituted a solution to legal battles, has prevailed instead of the search for a peaceful means of settlement especially by a superpower which is a permanent member of the Security Council and has international responsibilities.

Mauritania asserts its solidarity with the sister Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and launches an appeal for a peaceful solution to the problem and an end to the use of force, in order to make reason and wisdom prevail, as the continuation of fighting could have serious consequences, and it would be difficult to foresee the repercussions on peace in the region and in the whole world.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Declares Solidarity With Libya

LD252047 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Morocco has declared full solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah following the escalation of the Libyan-U.S. conflict. This came in a cable sent by His Majesty King Hassan II to the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. His majesty also received a verbal message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, delivered by Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaision, who was received by His Majesty today. Here is the text of His Majesty's cable to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi:

Dear brother. We are following with growing interest the current situation in sister Libya and we most sincerely regret the martyrdom of Libyan citizens. We are fully confident that your sacrifices will not be in vain. The basic objective for which we strive is the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in this part of the Mediterranean with which we have various links. In this context we express to you and to the fraternal Libyan people our full solidarity and confirm to you that we shall in turn exert all our efforts and do everything necessary in particular for the respect of the integrity of the sister Libyan Jamahiriyah. All the Moroccan people add their voice to ours in presenting condolences which are saturated with deep sorrow to the fraternal Libyan people and to the families of the martyrs. Dear brother. Please accept our highest appreciation.

This morning, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received at the royal palace in Marrakech Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who conveyed a verbal message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Majesty King Hassan II. This was also an occasion for him to say goodbye to his majesty at the end of his term as assistant secretary general of the African Arab Union and his appointment as secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Then his majesty chaired a working session with Al-Mansuri in the presence of Muhammad Zuway, the Libyan secretary resident in Rabat, and Ahmed Reda Guedira, his majesty's adviser.

King Hassan Interviewed by ARAB TIMES

GF251516 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Mar 86 pp 5, 10

[Interview with Moroccan King Hassan II by Ahmad al-Jarallah — date and place not given]

[Text] Question: The Arab world is currently witnessing many tragedies such as the Gulf war, the incidents in Egypt and civil war in Lebanon and Sudan. As a man close to the superpowers, what do you feel will be the consequences?
Answer: Your question covers the whole Arab situation. Our present problems are a result, directly or indirectly, of our own

actions. When Allah wanted the Arab world to be independent and to liberate its lands, the Arab world was divided into countries which have similar political, economic and social systems. The first Arab countries to gain independence in 1945 were Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and Syria.

The one behind the foundation of the Arab League realised the feelings of Arabs so he prepared for the collapse of Arabs and disunity and instead tried to get them together united under the umbrella of the League. I remember a speech my father, the late King Mohammed V, made in Tangiers in 1947, which shook the foundations of colonialism in North Africa. He expressed the wishes of the Moroccan people for Arab unity. We had great hopes for Arab unity and wanted to see the League unite the Arabs and liberate those Arab lands that were at that time still under the colonialist.

That is necessary background, but now let us look at Arab history, post-1950. In the 1950's the Arab world was rocked by revolutions in Egypt and Iraq. These revolutions were not designed to change the political line of the regimes involved or the personalities in power, but they shook the moral foundations of the two countries.

When it came to rebuilding the states, they did not go back to the Arab heritage to build up new societies which might have corresponded to the ambitions of the Arab people. Instead, these revolutions took political ideas from Eastern Europe and the people were obliged to accept these ideals. They wanted to distance their people from Arab heritage and civilisation, including their moral heritage.

Under normal circumstances, after a revolution the status quo regarding heritage, philosophy and ideology would be maintained, with all their positive and negative aspects. But these revolutions left nothing. They tried to influence neighbouring countries, trying to make them change their policies to the new line. The result for the Arabs was that they became a typical example of one Arab proverb: The crow tries to walk like a pigeon, fails to do this and also forgets the way it should walk.

Changes in regimes and ideologies in the Arab world create the gulf between fact and fiction. We forget the good which can come from direct dialogue between a ruler and his people. This dialogue no longer exists in the way it did before the revolutions and the acceptance of foreign ideologies.

Those Arab regimes describing themselves as liberal have lied to their people. These leaders have been lying to the people for many years so now it is impossible for them to return to past days and reveal the truth. Because of this the people have had to find out the truth for themselves, and this has reflected not only on the countries involved, but also on other states. The situation has even reached Morocco, even though we are some distance from the seat of these unpleasant circumstances.

All this has had an exhausting and weakening effect on the Arab nation; it is like a body which has become old and weak before its time. The Arab body is sick with national disasters because of old crises. I don't want to be pessimistic, but this is a fact. However, optimism can return and the black picture can be turned bright again.

Q: Let me ask you, not as a journalist but as an Arab, what do you see as the solution to this situation?
A: Of course there are solutions I can give. But I don't want to go into detail, because I am not the physician to treat this sick body. I am not in a position to offer solutions for other countries because each Arab state has its own characteristics. I do not want to repeat the mistakes of certain leaders, who thought they could teach others. Arab leaders each have to find the solution for their own country.

I see the Arab world as divided into three groups of countries: the Gulf states, which have succeeded in forming the GCC; a middle group, including Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Syria, North and South Yemen, Somalia and Djibouti, which should come to some sort of agreement, because they have similar problems; and finally, the group of North African Arab states, including Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania. The Gulf states reached agreement between themselves, and we are grateful for this, because it provided an example for other Arab states. Linking the Arab world through groups like the GCC could reduce the problems of Arab countries and would also help efforts to solve problems between individual states. One of the problems in the Arab world is our disunity and the fact we have decisions being issued from so many different quarters. This is one of our national disasters.

Q: Do you believe that Arab leaders are sincere in dealing with their people?
A: I can only answer for myself, and say that I believe that the Moroccan people hear facts and frank views from me. Any ruler who is not sincere in dealing with his people cannot rule for long unless he uses force against his people.

Q: Is the honeymoon between Jordan and the Palestinians over, or are you still making efforts to solve the differences between them?
A: Morocco will always be willing to mediate between Arab countries. Personally, I believe unity between the Palestinians and Jordan is a basis for solving Arab problems. I told my last news conference that relations between the Palestinians and Jordan were relations within a family. We are continually trying to mediate, particularly as my relations with King Husayn are those of a brother.

Q: Do you believe that the US is sincere in its promises to the Palestinians if they accept Security Council Resolution 242?
A: I am to meet President Reagan in June and I will put this question to him. Later, I will see if the US is sincere or not.

Q: At your last news conference you said that the Arabs should implement the joint defence pact. Did you mean that Arab states should be involved in the war against Iran, to defend Iraq?
A: Even if they do not enter the war, they should at least support Iraq through their policies, and diplomacy and in their newspapers. There are Arab countries which support Iran against Iraq with military supplies. I believe that those countries which do not abide by the Arab defence pact should leave the Arab League. There are no options to accept or reject the defence pact. No one

has the right to play with Arab League charters. The only choice for those who do not abide by these charters is to leave the Arab League.

Q: You have applauded the formation of the GCC; do you fear for the GCC states because of the Iran-Iraq war?
A: I am afraid, because the Arabian Peninsula is full of dangers. In the north is the Arab-Israeli dispute; to the east we have the Gulf waters which are a hotbed of tension because of the Iran-Iraq war; in the south we have seen the recent incidents in South Yemen; and in the west we have the Red Sea which has also become explosive because of the internal problems in Sudan, and the Sudan-Ethiopia dispute. Personally, I expect sudden changes, but I do not like political surprises or incidents, especially when they come together as they have done with the Gulf war, the South Yemen incident, the Sudanese problem and the Sudan-Ethiopian dispute.

Arab states should do their duty. We are all Arab brothers and should support each other. We should not forget that all Arab states have benefited from the wealth of the Gulf states, so it is not right to refuse to support these states when they face dangers. I am sorry to say that there are certain Arab countries which cause and encourage these dangers, which is not in line with Arab morals.

Q: Morocco recently hosted a Jewish conference, did this conference achieve your aims?
A: To date, the Arabs have never been acquainted with Jewish theories by the Jews themselves. The Jews have always spoken to us through President Reagan, through the French president or through the former Austrian chancellor, Bruno Kreisky. I am not convinced that this is right, because I feel that if an Israeli official met an Arab official on the same level, then they would know they would have to keep their promises.

I would like to ask the Arab people, their kings and presidents, whether they feel it would be an insult or a disgrace to select one person to meet an Israeli official — without signing an agreement or putting obligaions on the Israelis — just to meet to put forward the decisions of the Fes Arab summit and to see what the Israelis have to offer. If this happened the Israeli official would not have a chance to dodge, he would be obliged to say exactly what is in his mind. Later, the Arab delegate would notify the other Arab leaders about what had been said and his interpretation of it. Arab leaders would then take a decision. I do not believe that we shall ever really know the intentions of the Israelis when they come from foreign countries and mediators.

Q: In 1958 you said that Israel could only be destroyed through peace. Do you still feel the same way?
A: I said that during the dinner party in Lebanon when I was crown prince. I said that every country had a Jewish community. I also said that if we assume that Arab countries recognise Israel and see it as a rod in Arab states and a member of the Arab League, then what would happen? I was attacked for that and many things were said about me. The Arab world has missed many opportunities, but I now believe there is a chance to achieve a peace settlement restoring the occupied lands and respecting the rights of the Palestinians.

Q: Has the Moroccan decision to end the war with the Polisario achieved its aims?
A: Morocco did not attack anyone after the "Green March" ended. Morocco was the target and we suffered many casualties because we were attacked suddenly. Now we have fortified the major part of the desert, but we still stick to our policy of not attacking others. There are some clashes with the Polisario but they are not important.

Q: You are the symbol of Moroccan unity, what would happen in the event of your absence?
A: Throughout history, Morocco has defeated all plots against it. It is like any other country, sometimes strong and sometimes weak. I believe I am the servant of this nation and the servant of the Arab and Islamic nation. Some day I won't be here, but I have educated my sons and believe I have succeeded in building a "Hassan II Generation" in Morocco, which will be able to shoulder its responsibilities and educate the coming generation.

Q: You are a ruler who has faced tragedy, how has this affected your personality?
A: During my years of rule I have faced two incidents in the Sukairat area in 1971 and 1972 and the accident involving my plane. I thought I had lost everything, but Allah protected and saved me. The Moroccan Army may now be clean, without that Army we could not have gone to the Golan and Sinai in 1973. I am only human, so those incidents were a tragedy to me. But that doesn't mean I am always looking over my shoulder. When I look back on what happened, I think only to thank Allah for protecting me.

Q: What was the purpose of the crown prince's recent visit to Saudi Arabia?
A: When my son visits another Arab country he does so to increase the bonds of love and friendship between Arabs. I am pleased he responded to the invitation from the Saudi Crown Prince. I watched his visit on television and my son told me of the warm reception he had received in Saudi Arabia. He was received as a president not just as a crown prince. He was received warmly by King Fahd, the crown prince, princes and Saudi officials. Such a reception acts as a bridge linking the Arabs, and connecting the east and west of the Arab world.

Q: What was the intention behind appointing the crown prince as chief of staff?
A: There is no chief of staff but me. But I felt that after completing the fourth year of his studies in the faculty of law, the crown prince should undertake practical responsibilities, under my supervision, and review the problems and interests of the Armed Forces.

Q: Has the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC had an effect on Morocco?
A: Morocco should not depend on its friends in Europe. We have many friends in Europe, such as France, and they have kept a trade balance between us and Spain and Portugal. Personally I believe that there is a vast open market for Morocco in the Arab countries of the Middle East. Morocco should try to break into these markets and should prepare the necessary transport network for this. It is not difficult to look for new markets. The

European markets will need Moroccan goods in the future as their cost of living and consumption increase.

Q: Is Morocco heavily burdened by debt?
A: In the last century, countries which could not repay their debts were colonised by their creditor nation; this may have been the reason behind Morocco's colonisation in the past. Nowadays, debts do not lead to colonisation, but they still reduce freedom, because the debtor nation is under an obligation to pay its debts and this hinders development plans. In Morocco we have no internal financial problem; liquidity is available and we have development plans. However, we do need to increase our export so we have more hard currency. Our development plans in Morocco have gone well, despite the increase in oil prices and the war in the desert which had to be financed. For instance, our oil consumption cost us 41 billion in 1973. Even our returns from phosphate were unable to cover our expenditure. Tourism, remittances from Moroccan workers overseas and agriculture cover our spending. We have benefited from the rebuilding of dams in the country which were damaged. Our debt situation is not abnormal.

Q: How do you see the Moroccan economy developing in the next five years?
A: I cannot give an accurate picture, but studies forecast that Morocco's population will rise to 40 million over the next 20 years and we have to prepare our economic plans with this in mind.

Q: What do you think has prompted the wave of religious extremism which has swept Morocco and other Arab countries?
A: This new wave prompts us to ask: Who really knowns religion? Religion, as we see it, is simple and easy to understand and practice. It is not complicated. When we talk of religious people as fundamentalists, we mean that they understand the fundamentals of religion. The current wave of religious extremism lacks leaders and activists who are aware of the fundamentals and simplicity of religion.

Q: There is talk of a new "Green March" to liberate the cities of Ceuta and Melilla; is this right?
A: I feel when you ask this question that you are still thinking of the first "Green March". The march is not an aspirin we take when our headache intensifies. Marchers can be similar, but they are never repeated, as each situation in unique. The march to liberate Ceuta and Melilla is the march of dialogue and negotiation. I am sure that our neighbours in Spain will understand our dialogue, particularly with the restoration of Gibraltar and the visit of the king of Spain to Britain, for the first time since the rule of Philip II who fought against Queen Elizabeth I of Britain in the 15th century. When Spain restores its lands, it will have two windows on the sea, which is unacceptable to everyone. This is particularly so since Spain joined NATO, as the Soviets will not accept a NATO state having exits on the straits from the north and south. With patience and dialogue the problem will be solved without complecations. Morocco's western boundary is the sea, in the south it is the desert and in the north, Spain. If this situation is disturbed, it will mean that Spain has become an obstacle between Morocco and Europe. If the roots that give life to Morocco are in the south, then the leaves which give out oxygen are in the north. These are the pressing factors, for both Morocco and Spain. Our "Green March" to Ceuta and Melilla is more a combination of patience, reason and the power of persuasion.

With these comments, an intellectual giant who brought stability to Morocco and preserve it for the Arab nations, brought our interview to a close.

SUDAN

Further Reportage on Addis Ababa Meeting

SPLA-SPLM Spokesman Comments

EA251538 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The preliminary conference between the SPLA-SPLM and the National Alliance for National Salvation ended its deliberations yesterday at Koka, about 60 miles from the Ethopian capital, Addis Ababa. According to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration and Logistics Major Arok Thuon Arok, who is the spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM delegation, the deliberations were conducted in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. He expressed satisfaction on the results of the conference, which he described as successful. He said that a joint committee has been set up to draft the final resolution which will be issued soon. The delegation for the National Alliance for National Salvation is expected to leave for Khartoum today.

Norwegian Aid Official Seized by Rebels

AU251838 Paris AFP in English 1832 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Oslo, March 25 (AFP) — Rebels in southern Sudan abducted a Norwegian aid official last Sunday, the Christian Emergency Relief organization announced here Tuesday. The relief worker, Arne Olav Oeyhus, was caputred by guerillas while on a morning jogging trip near his office in a village which the statement issued by the organization did not identify.

The guerrillas have so far not presented any demands for his release. Senior officials of Christian Emergency Relief have flown to Kenya to try to launch negotiations with the abductors.

According to the Norwegian organization, 500 guerrillas attacked the village where Mr. Oeyhus was working.

Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army have been engaged in a three-year war with the Khartoum authorities to secure more autonomy for the largely Christian south of the country and overturn the imposition in 1984 of Islamic Shari‘a law.

Chief of Staff Comments on Situation in Rumbek

JN231739 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum March 23, (SUNA) -- TMC member and chief of staff of the Peoples' Armed Forces Gen. Muhammad Tawfiq Khalil has reiterated that the situation in Rumbek was satisfactory and that the morale of Rumbek commander and his troops, who had earlier pulled out of the town, was encouraging. Speaking to SUNA Khalil expressed confidence of the General Command of the Armed Forces in the military commander of Rumbek (south Sudan). He added that reinforcements had been dispatched to the Army contingents there.

It is to be recalled that a recent attack by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had forced the unit of Rumbek to pull out early this month for tactical reasons, as the Chief of Staff Khalil asserted in his recent statement. He did not however explain whether the government Armed Forces have recaptured the town or not.

Siwar al-Dhabab Addresses Anti-Apartheid Committee

JN231750 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] New York, 23 Mar (SUNA) — Sudan has affirmed its full support for struggler peoples in South Africa, Namibia, and Palestine. This came in a message addressed to the UN Anti-Apartheid Committee by General Siwar al-Dhahab, Transitional Military Council chairman, on the occasion of the international day to end apartheid. The message was read by Sudan's UN representative the day before yesterday.

The message affirms that the situation in southern Africa coincides with grave developments in the Middle East as a result of actions being taken by the racist regimes in Pretoria and Tel Aviv, of their indifference to the international community's will, and of their opposition to the basic rights of the South African, Namibian, and Palestinian peoples — rights recognized by the UN Charter and confirmed by UN resolutions, as well as by other international and regional organizations. The message adds that it is no secret that the two regimes rely on force and act against neighboring countries, as shown by South Africa's policies against Frontline States and by Israel's occupation of other countries' territory by force, including the invasion of Lebanon.

The message also expresses the hope of the Sudanese people and government that this year's celebrations will be an advanced step toward achieving the aspirations of the South African, Namibian, and Palestinian peoples. It also calls for making these aspirations a subject of UN interest. The message points out that this year's celebrations on the occasion of the international day to end apartheid coincide with the 26th anniversary of the Sharpsville massacre which revealed the nature of the racist regime in South Africa. The message also calls on the international community to redouble efforts and intensify pressure on the South African regime to make it respond to UN and Security Council resolutions. It also urges the next international conference on sanctions against South Africa to rise to the level of the challenges of the situation and achieve good results in favor of the struggler peoples in southern Africa.

Egyptian Military Delegation Arrives in Khartoum

JN231721 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1443 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA) — An Egyptian military delegation led by Major General Ahmad Salah al-Din 'Abd al-Halim and comprising eight senior officers representing various military units arrived in Khartoum yesterday. In a statement to *AL-AYYAM* newspaper issued today, Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum 'Abbas Musharrafah said that the military delegation's visit is part of the continued consultations between the Sudanese and Egyptian military sides, adding that the talks will deal with problems of common interest, particularly military issues, as well as with issues previously discussed by Sudanese Defense Minister Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah during his recent visit to Cairo.

The Egyptian ambassador also said that the military delegation's visit is aimed at discussing issues pertaining to military training and needs. In this regard the Egyptian ambassador denied reports that Egypt refused to deliver some weapons to Sudan, describing such reports as baseless lies and affirming that his country has met all its obligations toward Sudan. He also denied any link between the visit and the current war in southern Sudan, adding that the Collective Arab Defense Pact does not apply to this problem.

The Egyptian ambassador also stressed that because of Egypt's firm policy toward Sudan and its efforts to achieve unity and stability in Sudan and enable Sudan to overcome its problems, Egypt will oppose any attempt to turn the southern problem into an international or regional issue.

Al-Ummah Party Leader Returns From Libya

JN231820 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar. 23 SUNA — Leader of the Al-Ummah Party Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned home yesterday after a one-day official visit to Libya. During the visit Al-Mahdi held talks with the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other Libyan officals on bilateral relations, Al-Mahdi said upon his arrival here.

I gave comprehensive explanations to the Libyan officials regaroing the recent developments of the situation in the Sudan, Al-Mahdi added. The Al-Ummah Party leader described his talks with the Libyan officials as very successful.

Foreign Minister Confirms Uganda's Okello in Khartoum

JN231647 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyub has confirmed that former Ugandan President Tito Okello is in Khartoum. However, he said that the new Ugandan Government knows about and is satisfied with the former Ugandan president's presence in Khartoum. Citing the Transitional Military Council member [as received], the newspaper *AL-MAYDAN*, organ of the Sudanese Communist Party, said that President Okello has so far not asked for political asylum in Sudan. Three of his senior assistants, who accompanied him, have also not asked for political asylum in Sudan.

The Sudanese official said that a senior Ugandan official, Felix Onama, defense minister in the Obote government, has visited Khartoum recently as an envoy of President Yoweri Museveni and offered options to Tito Okello. Among these options were offers to return to Uganda to live peacefully there or to live in Tanzania or Kenya whose governments have offered to receive him.

TUNISIA

President Bourguiba Voices 'Deep Concern'

LD261310 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba has presided over a working session attended by Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of the interior; Beji Caid Essebsi, minister of foreign affairs; Mr Slaheddine Baly, minister of national defense; Mr Zine El Abdine Ben Ali, minister in charge of national security; and Mahmoud ben Hsine, who is entrusted with a mission by the president of the Republic.

The session received the recent developments in the Mediterranean, which resulted in a military confrontation between the United States and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. His excellency the president expressed his deep concern over this situation and his regret over the development of the conflict from a legal dispute to a military clash. His excellency also expressed his hope that reason will ultimately prevail and that the parties concerned will be able to resolve this problem peacefully and spare the region any possible repercussions which might result. His excellency the president gave his directives for bolstering, consolidating and strengthening Tunisian defense systems in order to provide greater impregnability and stability for Tunisia.

WESTERN SAHARA

Communique Claims 8 Moroccans Killed

LD252051 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] A communique issued today by the Saharan Ministry of Information said 8 Moroccan soldiers were killed and (?19) others were injured during two attacks by units of the Saharan people's liberation army on 20 March against positions of the Moroccan forces north of Amgala and [name indistinct].

SOMALIA

PRC President, Delegation Depart for Madagascar

EA260758 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] PRC President Li Xiannian, together with his wife and accompanying delegation, departed the SDR for Madagascar at 1000 this morning at the conclusion of his official visit to Somalia.

In a brief statement at the airport, the PRC president said his visit to the SDR had been successful and that the talks he had held with SDR leaders will strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation in particular in its political, economic, cultural, agricultural, industrial, educational, and social aspects.

UGANDA

AFP: Museveni Shuffles Civil Servants

AB251901 Paris AFP in English 1839 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Kampala, March 25 (AFP) — President Yoweri Museveni Tuesday appointed a number of new permanent secretaries to government ministries and reshuffled and dropped others.

Mr Museveni announced 34 appointments in all at the permanent secretary level and said those incumbents whose names did not appear on the list "will be assigned other jobs".

AFP: Government Denies Arms Sales to Ex-Mau Maus

AB261040 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Kampala, March 26 (AFP) — The Ugandan Government has denied as a "wicked and malicious fabrication" a report here that Kenyan ex-Mau Mau fighters are involved in arms buying in Uganda and that some had been arrested.

The government said in a statement late Tuesday that it was not aware of any such arms trafficking, and that it would not allow its territory to be used to destabilise any neighbouring country, especially Kenya.

It described the report in the weekly *DIGEST* newspaper as a "wicked and malicious fabrication" and an attempt to "poison the excellent relations" between the two countries. The paper reported on Monday that ex-Mau Mau fighters from Kenya were buying up guns from former Ugandan Army soldiers at give-away prices in north-eastern Uganda and in southern Sudan. It said the arms were destined principally for the Kenyan towns of Nairobi, Nakuru and Nyeri, and named four people arrested at Busia on the Uganda-Kenya border in connection with the affair.

The *DIGEST* report, which was not taken up by the Kenyan press, apparently out of caution, came amid a complex debate in Kenya about the importance of the anti-colonial Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950's. The debate could have some present-day political ramifications, observers believe.

CAMEROON

Congolese Minister Conveys Message, Comments on Chad

AB251356 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Congolese Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Antoine Ndinga-Oba was received in audience this morning at the Unity Palace by Ferdinard Leopold Oyono, permanent secretary at the president's office. The Congolese minister bore a message from President Sassou-Nguesso to his Cameroonian counterpart, President Paul Biya. After the audience, the Congolese minister did not disclose the contents of the message. He simply talked about preparations for the upcoming meeting in Brazzaville on reconciliation of the Chadian people. Here is the Congolese foreign minister talking to Theodore Bong-Etoundi:

[Begin recording][Ndinga-Oba] I brought a message from President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the People's Republic of Congo to President Paul Biya, and, like all messages meant for heads of state, I cannot disclose its contents to reporters.

[Bong-Etoundi] Mr Minister, Brazzaville is preparing to host the meeting for the reconciliation of the Chadian people. How is the government [words indistinct]?

[Ndinga-Oba] The government is doing everything to place at the disposal of Chadian leaders the necessary means for them to come together to discuss problems affecting their country in order to find the necessary solution to the reconstruction of their country and the restoration of peace. This is in line with the wish expressed by the principal leaders of the country, especially by President Hissein Habre himself. We all want peace.

[Bong-Etoundi] Mr Minister, do you think this meeting is worth holding since we know that Ndjamena has just formed a new government of national union where all the various (?factions) are represented?

[Ndinga-Oba] I don't know whether your feeling is that today after the formation of this government, one can say that peace has been restored in Chad. If that is the general feeling, then I would say that this meeting is unnecessary, but all this depends on the Chadians themselves, and not on us. We do not want to force them to come together to discuss their dispute. We believe there is a problem to be solved, and the decision of Chadians themselves is the most crucial element in deciding whether or not it is necessary to come together and discuss the problem of peace and reconstruction of their country. Congo will only record this decision and report to the OAU. [end recording]

Loan Agreement Signed With FRG in Yaounde

AB251944 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1507 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Yaounde, 25 Mar (CAMNEWS/PANA) — A loan contract of DM33.6 million, that is about 5.04 billion CFA francs, and a technical cooperation agreement — with the GTZ (Deutche Gesellschaft Fur Technische Zusammenarbeit) [German Technical Corporation Organization] of West Germany —, involving a nonrefundable grant of DM3 million, that is 450 million CFA francs, were signed in Yaounde on Monday between the Federal Republic of Germany, which was represented by its ambassador to Yaounde, Herald Ganns, and the Cameroonian minister of planning and territorial development.

The loan will help finance the construction of 10,000-ton floating dock for the Republic of Cameroon. As for the nonrefundable grant from the GTZ, it will help upgrade the Jakiri Zootechnical and Veterinary National Training Center in the northwestern province.

The minister of planning and territorial development, Sadou Hayatou, took the opportunity offered him to thank the German side on behalf of the Cameroonian head of state, President Paul Biya, for its continued support to the development efforts being made by Cameroon, through the relations described as excellent which exist between the two countries.

CAR

AFP: Minister Orders Secondary Schools Closed

AB252146 Paris AFP in French 1744 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Bangui, 25 Mar (AFP) — CAR Minister of Education Jean-Paul Ngoupande today ordered the closure until further notice of secondary schools in Bangui which students have been boycotting since 14 March, it was announced in the CAR capital.

The minister also instructed the headmasters of schools in the provinces to close their schools should "an atmosphere of agitation" develop there. The first months of the year are usually troubled months in secondary schools, because it is during this period that scholarships for the next year are decided upon.

CHAD

Habre, GUNT's Goukouni To Hold Reconciliation Talks

AB260905 Paris AFP in English 0839 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Brazzaville, March 26 (AFP) — Reconciliation talks between Chadian leader Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei, the head of the Libyan-backed GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] rebels based in northern Chad, will get under way this weekend in Loubomo, southwest Congo, reliable sources in the Congolese capital said Wednesday.

Mr Oueddei was expected to arrive here Wednesday whereas Mr Habre was due Thursday.

The meeting at the weekend will also be attended by Organisation of African Unity [OAU] Chairman Abdou Diouf, of Senegal, and Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, whom the OAU has designated as mediator in the Chadian conflict.

Chad is effectively cut in two by an east-west defensive "Red Line" protected by French forces, to prevent the rebels from moving further south.

Habre Reported Ready To Meet Opposition

AB241645 Dakar PANA in French 1356 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Bujumbura, 24 Mar (ABP-BUR/PANA) — "Chadian President Hissein Habre is ready to meet with the brothers of the opposition any time, anywhere, and without any conditions," Mr Maitine Djoumbe, the Chadian ambassador to Burundi with residence in Kinshasa, has stated.

The Chadian ambassador stressed that "the proposed meeting is in accordance with the constant desire of the government which has always wanted to find a peaceful and rapid solution to the tragedy tearing Chad apart." "We accept national reconciliation but reject all solutions of compromise," he continued.

Concerning the role of France with its new parliamentary majority, Mr Djoumbe declared: "It is not for us to take the place of the French authorities but it is a fact that it was at the request of the legitimate and legal government of Ndjamena and through respect for the age-old bonds uniting Chad and France that the latter is helping the Chadian people." Mr Djoumbe hoped that the Operation "Epervier" will be more active in the field "because, he said, "although in the fight on the ground the Chadian Armed Forces can control the situation because of their combat-readiness, courage, and determination to safeguard the territoral integrity, on the other hand they lack fighter planes to counter the Libyan Air Force."

Raising the question of Chadians now refugees in their own country, Mr Maitine Djoumbe asserted that "owing to the behavior of Libyan troops in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti occupied area, the civil population, estimated at over 80 percent, took refuge in the remaining parts of the country under government control and abandoned homes, livestock, and date-palm plantations in its flight."

Questioned on Libyan participation in the combat, Mr Djoumbe stated that "their dead bodies are scattered all over the battlefield and that the FANT [Chadian National Armed Forces] were able to lay hands on five prisoners among whom were a captain and a sergeant. We are sorry, he said, but these prisoners will only be handed over to families when Libya withdraws its occupational troops from Chad."

Mr Maitine Djoumbe said that apart from the area occupied by the Libyan troops, there is total peace in the remaining part of the country under the control of the Chadian Government which signed a peace agreement last February with Colonel Kotiga who was operating in the south of the country."

From the economic point of view, Chad, according to Mr Maitine Djoumbe, however, recorded a fall in the revenue earned from its cotton production owing to the international economic situation and the fall in the prices of raw materials."

Cotton being the principal export product, any unfavorable international economic situation automatically affects it," he stressed.

Ndjamena Radio Comments on Cabinet Reshuffle

AB242215 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] There are 34 members in the new government of the Third Republic. The head of state yesterday signed two decrees. One was on the reshuffling of the Cabinet while the other was on the reshuffling of the National Consultative Council. These are two actions that symbolize the political development in our country. These are two actions that make Chad — despite Libya's permanent aggression — tread resolutely toward its destiny and hold its destiny in its own hands. The open-door-policy of the president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre, has borne its fruit and this observation cannot be contested. The materialization of this political development is the appointment of some patriots who signed peace agreements with the government into the new ruling team in Ndjamena. These patriots belong to various commando groups of the Action Coordination Committee of the Revolutionary Democratic Council [CAC-CDR] and the Chadian Democratic Front [FDT]. What is the significance of this Cabinet reshuffle? Over to you (Madianangar Fasole):

So, the Cabinet and the National Consultative Council were reshuffled yesterday. This reshuffle, which affects technical structures as well as political considerations, is in line with the concerns of Chadians to go further in the policy of national reconciliation and reconstruction. On the purely technical plane, the prominent place given to the Ministry of Justice demonstrates the desire of the authorities of the Third Republic to give a prominent place to justice in view of the search for justice and equality in our country. Still, on the technical plane, there have been changes in the appellations of some ministries: the Ministry of Finance and Equipment now becomes Ministry of Finance and Computer Technology. This demonstrates the desire to introduce modern technology into our financial management. Then, there is also the Ministry of Natural Disasters which now becomes the Ministry of Food Security and Natural Disasters. The Ministry of Economy and Commerce now gives way to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This means already that the economy is [word indistinct]. Still on the technical plane, the Ministry of Information and Orientation [passage indistinct] now has a political adviser [passage indistinct]. As for the setting up of a ministry delegate to the Presidency charged with planning, the objective is to emphasize the priority of the government — since the advent of the Third Republic — which is to restore economic activities in Chad [passage indistinct].

On the political plane, one can note the arrival of eminent personalities of the former internal and external opposition into the new government and the National Consultative Council. They are now part of the ruling team. The terms of the agreements signed between the CAC-CDR and the government on the one hand, and the FDT and the government on the other, have been respected because the recent Libreville agreements between the government and the FDT and the CAC-CDR and the government on (?23) December in Libreville, stipulated that Cabinet reshuffling and appointment of new members into the National Consultative Council must take place within a period of 3 months. Today makes it exactly 3 months since the agreements were signed.

CONGO

OAU Chairman Diouf To Visit Brazzaville

AB231300 Dakar PANA in French 1205 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 23 Mar (ACI/PANA) — Current OAU chairman, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, will soon pay an official visit to Congo, it was learned from an official source in Brazzaville on Saturday.

This visit was announced on Saturday at the end of a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Congolese Labor Party. The report from this meeting does not state either the date or the purpose of the visit. But it is known that within the framework of the OAU, Presidents Diouf and Sassou-Nguesso consult each other regularly to find a negotiated solution to the Chadian conflict. The Congolese head of state has been charged by the pan-African organization to solve the Chadian crisis through negotiations between that country's government and opposition groups.

Friendship Committee Formed With Bulgaria

AB252200 Dakar PANA in French 1445 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 25 Mar (ACI/PANA) — A friendship committee between Congo and Bulgaria was officially inaugurated yesterday in Brazzaville. Madam Antoinette Sassou-Nguesso, wife of the Congolese head of state, is its honorary president, while Hippolyte Kimbembe is the president.

According to Vital Balla, president of the Congolese Friendship Association with Peoples (ACAP), the creation of this committee is the result of a draft agreement signed between the ACAP and the Bulgarian Committee of Friendship with the Peoples of Africa and Asia. This committee, he added, constitutes an "efficient instrument" capable of fostering and developing mutual cooperation, solidarity, friendship, and understanding between the Congolese and Bulgarian peoples.

During the ceremony, Gergi Vladikov, the Bulgarian ambassador to Congo, expressed satisfaction with the excellent bonds of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries.

RWANDA

AFP: Amnesty International To Inspect Prisons

AB201944 Paris AFP in English 1834 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Kigali, March 20 (AFP) — A team from the human rights organisation Amnesty International is to visit prisons in the small East African state of Rwanda next month, Justice Minister Jean-Marie Vianney Mugemana said here on Thursday.

Addressing prison directors, Mr Mugemana told them to give the delegation all necessary help and allow them to make any visits they should request. Rwanda had nothing to hide, he added.

There are around 12,000 inmates, eight of them political detainees, in Rwanda's 16 prisons and rehabilitation centres.

On March 3, Mr Mugemana announced that prisoners would be obliged to grow their own food, make uniforms for themselves and prison staff, and manufacture such items as furniture for government departments. The Amnesty visit is to begin in mid-April.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Receives Angolan, Congolese Officials

AB231812 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1300 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 21 Mar (AZAP) — The issue of the handing over of hostages by the rebel "UNITA" movement to the Red Cross on Zairian territory will not affect the relations of good neighborliness between Luanda and Kinshasa after the explanations given by the Executive Council to the Angolan Government.

This is the gist of the statements by Mr Pascual Luvualu, a member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA Central Committee and the special envoy of Angolan President dos Santos to Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko who received him in audience on Friday evening at Camp Tsahtshi. Mr Luvualu, who brought a message from the Angolan president to leader Mobutu, said the Zairian head of state gave him ample details on this affair from which it came out that the international Red Cross and UNITA acted without the knowledge of the Zairian authorities.

It will be recalled that at that time, the Executive Council reacted with firmness by ordering that the 44 UNITA soldiers, who penetrated Zairian territory under yet unclear circumstances in the company of the hostages they captured, to be disarmed and driven back to whence they came. On that occasion, Zaire reaffirmed its determination to continue to have relations of good neighborliness and confident cooperation with Angola on the basis of the ad hoc agreements concluded during the time of late President Neto and strengthened on the occasion of the visit to Kinshasa in 1985 by his successor, Jose Eduardo dos Santos. He also denounced UNITA maneuvers which try to imply a connivence between it and the Zairian authorities.

The head of state later received Mr Antoine Ndinga-Oba, the Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who brought a verbal message from President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to President Mobutu Sese Seko. This message falls within the framework of regular consultations between the two heads of state on issues of common interest.

BURKINA FASO

10th ANAD Council of Ministers Session Ends

AB260930 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The 10th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Nonagression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD], which opened on Sunday night in our capital, ended its deliberations last night after 3 days of sustained activities. The closing ceremony took place in the West African Economic Community [CEAO] Council of Ministers Hall. As at the opening session, representatives of the nine countries, that is, the seven member states of the ANAD and two countries with observer status — Benin and Guinea — were present.

The closing speech was given by Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, minister of people's defense. After congratulating the participants for the serious work done for the success of this 10th session, he took stock of the outcome of the session.

[Begin Lingani recording] This session delt with an important policy document as well as with an administrative and financial document. The happy outcome of the deliberations shows the spirit of genuine solidarity, harmony, and maturity of all the member states of the ANAD. After examination of the documents, the Council of Ministers at a plenary session adopted several provisions and recommendations which will be submitted to the 7th summit of heads of state and governments for approval.

I sincerely wish to express my profound thanks and those of the executives of the 10th session of the Council of Ministers to all the delegations for their responsible, dynamic, and constructive participation in the deliberations and I hope that the documents emerging from our meeting will meet the approval of the 7th summit of heads of state and governments of our organization. [End recording]

Mauritanian, Beninese Leaders Arrive for CEAO Summit

AB252137 Dakar PANA in French 1840 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Ouagadougou, 25 Mar (PANA) — Beninese and Mauritanian heads of state Mathieu Kerekou and Maaouyia Sid Ahmed Ould Taya, as well as Niger Prime Minister Hamid Algabit have just arrived in Ouagadougou this afternoon to take part beginning tomorrow in the 11th summit of the West African Economic Community [CEAO].

The Niger prime minister will represent President Seyni Kountche, now ill in a hospital in Paris. The other heads of state of the CEAO member-states are expected tomorrow a few hours before the opening of the summit. They include Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny, and Malian head of state Moussa Traore. Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who will attend the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement summit, is also expected in the Burkinabe capital tomorrow.

Defense Withdraws From Trial of Diawara, Others

AB251516 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The 15th session of the Revolutionary People's Tribunal [TPR] of Ouagadougou has started. The trial of the delinquents of white collar crime opened this morning at the Maison du Peuple in Ouagadougou. There were at the bar about 15 persons accused of forgery, falsification, embezzlement, illicit self-enrichment, and so on. Following is a report by Daba Seremi:

[Begin Seremi recording] Yes, Francis Kabore, we have just returned from the Maison du Peuple where we all followed this first day of the 15th session of the Ouagadougou TPR which held a surprise for us: the withdrawal of the defense counsel of the main accused of the CEAO [West African Economic Community], that is Mohamed Tiekoura Diawara, Moussa Ngom, and Moussa Diakite. The spokesman of the defense counsel, who appeared to be the doyen, indicated that the texts of the TPR do not allow them to argue their case and asked the authorities to create what the counsel spokesman describes as more favorable conditions in order to make it possible for them to do their work. This was a surprise because everything had been done to ensure the normal holding of this trial. One may wonder why the counsel has waited for the beginning of the trial to make his request whereas special derogations had been adopted in order to enable the accused to be assisted by counsel. The counsel believes that there have been insufficient preliminary investigations whereas this CEAO affair has been in existence for such a long time.

In any case, the president of the tribunal replied that the tribunal was not competent to accept the request of the defense counsel. The latter therefore withdrew. The president of the tribunal, [Komi] Sambo, however stressed that in Burkina Faso, the TPR is competent to try all cases.

Thus, the trial of the CEAO case seems to be held up for the time being and everybody is awaiting what will follow. However, the spirit of solidarity which has always motivated the CEAO member-states will certainly unblock this affair in the interest of more than 35 million people who have to recover 6 billion CFA francs which is the fruit of their sweat. [end recording]

GHANA

Accra Urges U.S. To Stop 'Provocative Maneuvers'

AB251830 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] An official statement issued in Accra this evening said the Government of Ghana views with apprehension the armed hostilities which have broken out between Libya and the United States in the Gulf of Sidra. These hostilities are the direct consequences of the repeated provocative military exercises carried out by the Reagan administration in the area around the Gulf which Libya claims as part of its territorial waters. The government recalled the declaration by the OAU Council of Ministers at its 43d session in Addis Ababa last month in which the council condemned the provocation, threats, and acts of intimidation perpetrated against Libya by the U.S., and calls for an end to them.

The statement said: In the view of the government, any territorial dispute is best resolved by peaceful means, including resorting to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Unilateral demonstrations of force in disregard to the rights of the others only increases tension and poses a threat to international peace and security.

The government, therefore, appeals to all parties involved to use the utmost restraint to resolve the dispute peacefully. In particular, it urges the United States to put an immediate end to the provocative maneuvers in and around the Gulf of Sidra.

Radio Condemns U.S. Action

AB251451 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Sena Tsikata commentary]

[Text] The latest American military maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra off the Libayn coast have resulted in the shooting down of 3 U.S. aircraft involved in the maneuvers. This was necessitated by the aircraft crossing the boundary dividing Libyan and the international waters in which the American 6th Fleet says it has been conducting its maneuvers for some time now. The fleet is made up of 30 ships, including 3 aircraft carriers, the largest that America has assembled in that part of the world. This is the fourth military maneuvers the Americans have held in the area, which is Libyan territory but which America claims to be international waters.

The latest exercise started when the Second World Forum for Resistance Against Imperialism, Zoinism and Racism was in session in Tripoli. It is the objective of the forum in the Libyan capital aimed at tackling the imperialism and Zionism activities in the world that has annoyed the United States into returning to the Gulf of Sidra, and this time, crossing into Libyan territory. Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had earlier warned the Americans that if they crossed into his territory, he would act, and the Americans did exactly that. Hence the shooting down of the 3 U.S. aircraft. American replied by shelling the Libyan town of Surt, which has been the target of American military maneuvers since it started its actions. This is beacuse the Gulf of Sidra contains very important industrial and military installations, and the Americans are bent on destroying this area in order to cripple Libya economically and militarily before launching its final onslaught on a progressive country whose only crime is identifying itself with national liberation movements and progressive governments all over the world.

The violation of Libyan territory is also aimed at diverting the attention of the Arab League which has just started its meeting in Tunis, from its agenda of tackling problems of the Arab world. Among pressing issues which would be discussed at the meeting will be the Iran-Iraq war, and how best to discuss ways of showing their solidarity with another Arab country under attack from an imperialist power.

It is quite clear that right from the onset, the aim of the American military maneuvers was to attack the town of Surt. This is the time for the Arabs to show their true solidarity with Libya by condemning the American activities in the Gulf of Sidra, which is threatening the Mediterranean. This is necessary to strengthen the Arab unity and forestall further clashes which could occur in the area. The whole of the Third World or nonaligned nations should also show their support for Libya. For, if the United States is allowed to get away with its actions against Libya, no Third World country is safe. Libya's independence and territoral integrity must be preserved. Libya's destiny is also the destiny of all the nonaligned world.

IVORY COAST

DPRK Photo, Art Exhibit Held in Abidjan 25-30 Mar

AB251058 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 25 Mar 86 p8

[Text] The opening of the exhibition of photos and art objects from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will take place at 1800 this afternoon at the National Library. This exhibition, which will end on 30 March, will present photos depicting the life of the Korean people as well as embroidery work and various art objects.

The public is cordially invited.

NIGER

Prime Minister Leaves for Ouagadougou Summits

AB251940 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Hamid Algabit, left Niamey this afternoon for Ouagadougou. While in the Burkinabe capital, Mr Algabit will attend the summits of the heads of state of Liptako-Gourma Authority, the CEAO [West African Economic Community], and the ANAD [Non-Aggression and Defense Aid Agreement].

NIGERIA

Council of State Holds First Meeting of 1986

AB251415 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] A meeting of the national Council of State has opened in Lagos. The meeting, which is the first to be held this year, is being presided over by President Ibrahim Babangida. Among issues of national interest being discussed at the meeting is the local government reforms to be introduced on the 1st of next month.

Former Foreign Ministers To Participate in Meeting

AB251946 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Eight former Nigerian foreign ministers have been invited to participate in the All-Nigerian Conference on Foreign Policy scheduled to take place in Kuru, Plateau State, next month. They include retired Major General Joseph Garba, Professor Ishaya Audu, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, and Alhaji Nuhu Bayero. Others are Dr Arikpo Nwachukwu retired Major General Henry Adefope, and Chief Emeka Anyanwu.

The chairman of the organizing committee of the conference, Mallam Haroun Adamu, told newsmen in Lagos today that the contributions of the former public officers would greatly enhance the understanding of the country's foreign policy position. Mallam Adamu said the committee has already received more than 100 memoranda and the summaries of some papers considered to be worthy of publication are to be used as conference documents.

The 1-day conference which comes up on the 1st of next month, is to be held in plenary and committee sessions. The All-Nigerian Conference on Foreign Policy was convened by President Ibrahim Babangida [words indistinct] of the country's external relations for the next 15 years.

Finance Ministry Group Leaves for Talks in London

AB260755 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] A delegation led by the minister of finance, Dr Chu Okongwu, has left Lagos for London to hold discussions with the country's creditor banks and financial institutions. Before leaving, the minister told newsmen at Murtala Muhammed Airport that the federal government was making plans to reschedule the country's foreign debt. He said the process of rescheduling debts ifas a continuous one, and that discussions had earlier been held. The minister said, however, that the delegation would want to know what the creditors have in the offing before any domestic programs could be determined. Dr Okongwu stated that Nigeria was still holding discussions with the IMF despite the rejection of its loan since she was a member.

The minister and his entourage are expected back on Friday.

SENEGAL

Diouf Receives DPRK Vice Premier, Saudi Minister

AB242203 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] On Saturday afternoon, the head of state, President Abdou Diouf, received in audience his excellency Kim Yongnam, the DPRK vice prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, in the presence of Ibrahima Fall, minister of foreign affairs, and his excellency Hwang Chol-sun, the DPRK ambassador to Senegal.

The head of state also received Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir, minister of information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the presence of Djibo Ka, minister of communication, and his excellency Skykh Abdallah at-Tubayshi, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Senegal.

This morning, the head of state went to the National Assembly where he presided over the opening ceremony of the first ordinary session of the Social and Economic Council.

ANGOLA

'Official Source' Denies UNITA Attack on Gulf Oil

MB261333 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The attack which UNITA claims to have carried out against the Malongo petroleum installations, in Cabinda Province, last Monday was denied by an official source speaking to ANGOP in Luanda today.

The source told ANGOP that this alleged attack amounts to no more than a lie by the puppets, who seek to gain propaganda advantages by claiming spectacular actions — which are in fact never carried out — which some Western media like very much to publish.

That source said life and work within the installations of the Gulf Oil company in Cabinda Province continue under normal conditions. This can be confirmed by the U.S. citizens who work there.

AFP, which carried the news of UNITA's false action, today published a statement by a spokesman of Chevron, which operates in Cabinda Province, according to whom no attack had been made on the Malongo petroleum installations. Murray Shilton, the Chevron spokesman, categorically denied UNITA's claimed attack.

[Words indistinct] was received by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Jonas Savimbi, the head of the UNITA armed bandits in the pay of the racist South African regime, said that the Cabinda petroleum installations were one of his principal targets. This statement was widely quoted by the international media.

The aid that the U.S. Administration gives the Angolan counterrevolutionaries will also be used against U.S. interests in Angola and it may result in the death of U.S. nationals, a number of international news agencies, newspapers, and radios have warned.

Envoy to Portugal Urges Firm Position on Kidnapping

MB241309 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] The Portuguese newspaper *O DIARIO* has stated that the policy of that country's government toward African countries was dictated by the U.S. Administration. *O DIARIO* noted that the Lisbon government's stance is generally indentified with the U.S. viewpoint. A clear proof of this is the fact that, like the U.S. Administration, the Portuguese Government did not condemn the kidnapping of its own citizens in Andrada.

What is more, Mwaete Joao Baptista, the Angolan ambassador in Lisbon, has said that our country still hopes that the Portuguese Government would assume a realistic position as soon as possible toward UNITA activities in Lisbon. He added that it was strange that the bandits in the pay of Pretoria should continue to be allowed to propagate terrorist actions from the Portuguese capital, actions which are carried out in Angola even against Portuguese citizens. Ambassador Mwaete Joao Baptista pointed out that the Angolan Government still hoped that Portugal would adopt a firm position with regard to the kidnapping of Portuguese citizens in Andrada, Lunda Norte Province, by UNITA bandits.

Luvualu Says Relations With Zaire Remain Good

MB241300 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Pascual Luvualu, a member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party, who has been in Kinshasa to deliver a message from the Angolan head of state to his Zairian counterpart Mobutu Sese Seko, told Zairian television that the recent events would not affect the relations of good neighborliness between Angola and Zaire.

According to AFP, Comrade Luvualu said that he was briefed by the Zairian president on the entry of the UNITA puppets who had kidnapped foreign workers in Lunda Norte into his country.

LESOTHO

2 Former Cabinet Ministers Released From Detention

MB261418 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Two cabinet ministers in former Chief Jonathan's government have been released in Lesotho. The former information and broadcasting minister, Desmond Sixishe, and former secretary to Chief Jonathan, Antonio Tsike, have been released by the new military government after spending 15 days in detention.

The chairman of the Military Council earlier said charges would be brought against top officials of the former government, once police investigations were completed. Mr Sixishe said he was interrogated for only 15 minutes during his time in detention.

Chairman Lekhanya Speaks on Military Role

MB241236 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] The chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers, Major General J.M. Lekhanya, says a true soldier is the one who does not rob banks, rob individuals, or murder them, but is the one who ensures that people and their property are protected. Maj Gen Lekhanya said this yesterday in Quthing at the official opening of the extension of the Quthing Sheep Stud. He said the sheep stud would benefit the people of Quthing and urged those in charge of the stud to take care of it.

Maj Gen Lekhanya said that according to reports from soil conservation experts the country loses between 2 and 7 percent of its soil through erosion. For this reason he urged the people of Quthing to engage with more determination in soil conservation activities. He stressed that agricultural development tops the list of all fields of development in this country. The chairman of the Military Council assured the people of Quthing that their needs would be given urgent consideration. He also told the people that there has been no report from the auditor general since 1978 and the country's deficit is estimated at 100 million maluti. He said that those responsible for these discrepencies will have to appear before the courts of law. He added that some of them were already being questioned. He said it is his feeling that the system of wool and mohair marketing should be revised and that there should be three levels of payment to wool and mohair producers. He assured the people that this would definitely happen.

Maj Gen Lekhanya went on to say that the military had to take power because there was confusion in the past administration and this confusion was the result of the politics of hatred. Maj Gen Lekhanya said that true peace and reconciliation could be achieved though dialogue between neighbors. He urged the people not to revenge but to forget their past differences if true peace is to be achieved.

The chairman of the Military Council said chiefs were powerless in the last administration and the general situation in the country was chaotic because of self-seekers who wielded power. He said major steps were being taken to harness Lesotho's abundant waters so that it can be used for irrigation. He revealed that there is already cash set aside for water supply projects in the Quthing district and work is to start soon.

Maj Gen Lekhanya said that military rule will be withdrawn as soon as true peace and reconciliation prevail in the country. Maj Gen Lekhanya was accompanied by members of Military Council and the Council of Ministers. The rally was attended by thousands of enthusiastic people who welcomed him with songs and praises.

MOZAMBIQUE

Source: MNR Trains in, Gets Aid From Malawi

AU261034 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Lisbon, March 26 (AF) — The rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) train in the south of neighbouring Malawi and receive most of their supplies from that country, a Mozambican military source told the Portuguese news agency ANOP.

The source said that MNR guerrillas infiltrated into Mozambique's northern Tete, Zambezi and Niassa Provinces along the valley of the Zambezi River, where the rebels have shown increasing activity in recent months, ANOP reported Wednesday.

While supply flights from South Africa had not been detected for about a year, they were increasingly frequent from Malawi, the source said.

The conservative Malawi Government has always denied assisting the rebels fighting the Marxist government in Maputo, but Mozambican military sources quoted by ANOP said that "certain circles" in Malawi were giving the MNR substantial support.

Mozambican President Samora Machel visited Malawi less than two years ago to ask head of state Kamuzu Banda for cooperation in fighting the MNR.

Machel Calls for Action Against 'Racketeering'

MB230807 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] President Samora Machel has called for a drastic offensive to wipe out racketeering in Mozambique society. The president was speaking today in Maputo at the second conference of the National Youth Organisation. He called on young Mozambicans to repel the onslaught of the class enemy and to defend the socialist sectors of the economy.

President Machel warned that the class struggle is sharpening in Mozambique. He said Portuguese colonialism had not allowed a national bourgeoisie to develop in Mozambique so that at independence, there was only an aspiring bourgeoisie. The president said these people had seen the state as a means of accumulating capital and turning themselves into a true bourgeoisie. He said the black market served the same aims — capital accumulation. President Machel said the arrogance now displayed by racketeers was an insult to honest Mozambican workers. He described the racketeers as blood suckers and said it was time to deal a harsh blow against them. The president drew a distinction between racketeers and honest private businessmen. He said the government had always guaranteed the existence of a private sector, but the dominant sectors of the economy should be cooperatives and those owned by the state.

THE STAR: Military Initiative Lies With MNR

MB201032 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 19 Mar 86 p 13

[By John d'Oliveira, editor, *STAR*'s Africa News Service]

[Text] Despite regular claims of military successes, the civil war in Mozambique is going badly for the Maputo Government.

According to information compiled by diplomatic and intelligence sources in southern Africa, the military initiative now clearly lies with the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR].

Today, the MNR is in a much stronger position than before the signing of the Nkomati Accord in March 1984. It is by far the most aggressive of the warring parties. Every month, it becomes more aggressive as it steps up both the frequency and the scope of its activities.

In 1984, it is estimated the MNR initiated about 60 percent of the deliberate contacts between the two sides. Most estimates this year suggest that more than 85 percent are now initiated by the MNR. In December, while 10 MNR bases were attacked, the rebels themselves attacked twice as many government military bases.

These statistics confirm that the Mozambique defence force (FAM) has been forced into a purely defensive role.

In 1983 the number of "incidents" averaged about 100 a month. By 1984, the number was running at about 150 a month, by 1985, 200 a month, and this year the average is approaching 250 a month.

It is understood that the MNR was involved in a record number of 350 "incidents" in November, last year.

Although it is difficult to assess accurately the number of casualties generated by the bush war, there is evidence that at least five FAM soldiers now die for every two MNR guerillas.

Apart from anything else, events in Mozambique have sadly disillusioned the country's allies. In June, last year, the Frontline States agreed to a military assistance programme for Mozambique which would have involved Zimbabwean, Zambian and Tanzanian troops in a combined push to smash the MNR "bandits" once and for all.

As a result, Zimbabwe increased its military presence in Mozambique from the 4,000 troops guarding the Beira-Mutare corridor (effectively Zimbabwe's road, rail and pipeline links with the sea) to about 12,000. A small proportion of the troops remained in Zimbabwe, just across the Mozambique border.

Tanzania committed about 2,000 tropps to the Mozambique war, but these never moved far south of the Tanzanian border.

Although Zambian military convoys have been seen in Mozambique's Tete Province (adjoining Zambia), there is no evidence that Zambian combat troops have been involved in Mozambique.

The high point of this international military co-operation came in August, last year, when the comparatively well-trained, well-equipped, well-paid Zimbabweans spearheaded the attack on Casa Banana, the MNR headquarters at Gorongosa, in central Mozambique, just north of Beira.

The MNR was driven out of Casa Banana and documents were seized which purported to confirm South African Defence Force assistance for the MNR, in contravention of the Nkomati Accord. These documents formed the basis for a vigorous, continuing attack on the South African Government by Maputo.

However, once the Zimbabwean troops withdrew to the Beira-Mutare corridor and handed over operations at Gorongosa to FAM, the MNR reappeared. By the middle of last month, they had recaptured Casa Banana.

This was a major blow to the Maputo Government and a serious disillusionment for the Zimbabweans — and for Mozambique's other allies.

Since then, Zimbabwe has withdrawn 5,000 of its soldiers; the rest have adopted a defensive posture and pressure is increasing on Zimbabwe's prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, to reduce the number even further. It is also understood that the Tanzanians have moved their troops out of Mozambique.

SOUTH AFRICA

Lesotho's Lekhanya Arrives for 'Working Visit'

MB261031 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1009 GMT
26 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 26, SAPA — Major General Justice M. Lekhanya, chairman of the Lesotho Military Council, and members of his government landed at D.F. Malan Airport for a "working visit" to the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, today.

They were met by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and senior members of his department.

Gen Lekhanya was accompanied by Colonel T. Letsie, a member of the Military Council; Mr L.B. Monyake, minister of foreign affairs; Mr E.R. Sekhonyana, minister of finance; Mr L.A. Jane, minister of water affairs, energy and mines; and Mr T Thabane, secretary of the Military Council.

The delegation departed immediately for the state president's office, Tuynhuys, where talks will be conducted during a working lunch and may be followed by a joint statement from the two governments.

Gen Lekhanya and his delegation are scheduled to leave Cape Town soon after the lunch.

Meets P.W. Botha, Departs

MB261258 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1256 GMT
26 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 26, SAPA — The six-man Lesotho Government delegation, led by Major General Justin M. Lekhanya, chairman of the Military Council, left Cape Town after a 90-minute working lunch with the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, today.

A brief written statement was issued on behalf of the two governments in which they expressed agreement on the need to finalise the Lesotho Highland Water Project and to consider "appropriate official representation" in each other's countries.

General Lekhanya's brief, unheralded visit followed a round of negotiations between the countries foreign, finance and agricultural ministers on Monday.

It is the first by a Lesotho Government leader since two successive visits by Dr Leabua Jonathan in 1966 and 1967 to Dr H.F. Verwoerd and his successor, Mr John Vorster.

According to the statement issued today by the Department of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the two governments, they "emphasised their adherence to the principle of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states."

"They reaffirmed that they would not allow their territories to be used for the planning and execution of acts of terrorism against the other," the statement said.

The statement said the governments agreed on a need to cooperate "in the interest of the peoples of both countries" and that lasting peace and stability were of primary importance for the economic development of their two countries as well as the whole southern African region.

To achieve this, practical forms of cooperation in economic development, food production, trade, transport, health, tourism and training, would be examined.

"A main feature of the discussions was the Lesotho Highland Water Project.

"The two governments agreed in principle that this project is to the benefit of both countries and will contribute to their economic progress," the statement said.

The governments hoped that "the few outstanding aspects would soon be resolved to mutual satisfaction."

The two leaders had also discussed the need for "appropriate" official representation in each country, "to serve the interests of each other's citizens more effectively and expeditiously and also to manage the envisaged mutual projects." "It was agreed that this question will be further considered by the two governments," the statement said.

Pik Botha Meets With Lesotho Counterpart

MB241626 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the Governments of South Africa and Lesotho still have to examine whether agreement can be reached on structures which will lead to more effective cooperation between them. Mr Botha was speaking in Cape Town after meeting with his Lesotho counterpart, Mr Lengolo Monyake.

He told reporters that the two governments had agreed that cooperation had to take place on a realistic and constructive basis. Mr Botha said South Africa and her neighbor had many interests and objectives in common.

Asked whether security affairs had been raised at the meeting, Mr Botha said that South Africa and Lesotho agreed on the international principle that neither country would permit its territory to be used for the perpetration of violence against the other. Referring to the possible drafting of a written treaty dealing with the matter, Mr Botha said that both governments believed that if there was a firm understanding on the matter between them, then a written treaty would not necessarily be more effective.

Le Grange: Memorandum 'Unsubstantiated Allegations'

MB241814 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1752 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 24, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, today refused to comment on what he called unsubstantiated allegations and claims submitted to him by a delegation of women's and welfare organisations.

The memorandum, the minister said, contained a series of allegations regarding police abuse, "but lacks detail such as places and times of events and names and addresses of complainants."

"It is unfair that the South African police should be subjected publicly to such serious allegations and for which it cannot defend itself until it has had the opportunity to investigate and evaluate the true facts.

"It is yet another example of how untested, unsubstantiated and one-sided allegations are made public in an obvious bid to discredit the police, not only locally but also abroad," Mr le Grange said.

Buthelezi Blames Durban Arson on Far Left

MB241550 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, has condemned the incidents of arson at the University of Natal in Durban. Chief Buthelezi said in the KwaZulu legislative assembly in Ulundi that the "No indaba" slogan painted on the wall of the university indicated clearly to him from which quarter the attack had come. He said it was the far left that was most threatened by the KwaZulu-Natal negotiations, and this kind of attack followed the pattern of violence initiated by the ANC in exile and its allies to make the country ungovernable.

Atteridgeville Mayor Says Police Stopping Deliveries

MB241538 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1513 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 24, SAPA — The mayor of Atteridgeville, Mr S.M. Mahlangu, today condemned the stopping by security forces of local traders' vehicles from transporting foodstuffs and other supplies from the entrance of the township into the township, and he questioned the legality of the action.

Mr Mahlangu said in a statement, the transportation of the goods had become necessary "because the suppliers are not prepared to make deliveries at the shops after previous incidents when some delivery vehicles were stoned and burnt."

"It is our opinion that the police blockade of the local traders' vehicles will, if continued, cause more inconvenience and hardships for our residents, especially in the light of the current consumer boycott. This may lead to a heightening of the tensions in the town (Atteridgeville) and possibly rioting," Mr Mahlangu said.

The town council of Atteridgeville "does not believe that that kind of action could result in any alleviation of the consumer boycott." Instead, Mr Mahlangu said, it would damage the image of the police in the eyes of the residents.

"The police have in the past been requested to enter into direct negotiations with everybody concerned to find a solution to problems and not act in a manner that will offend the public," he said.

A spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations refuted the allegation and said no vehicles had been prevented from making deliveries. Drivers had been told that the police would protect them as far as possible, but that they entered the township at their own risk.

Appeals for End to Vehicle Hijacks

MB241532 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1517 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 24, SAPA — The mayor of Atteridgeville town council, Mr S.M. Mahlangu, today appealed to Atteridgeville youths to refrain from "hijacking and climbing and hanging on council vehicles and other vehicles, stoning and burning them."

Mr Mahlangu said in a statement that eight-year-old Robert Mabena of Atteridgeville was injured last week when a group of youths were seen "running from behind and on the sides of the council's water-tanker — jumping on and off the moving vehicle."

The injured boy was taken to Kalafong Hospital where he died, Mr Mahlangu said.

In his appeal to Atteridgeville youths, Mr Mahlangu said: "The difficult times we are all going through require of everybody to act responsibly to avoid malicious gossip-mongering and propagandist pamphleteering which result in victimisation of innocent people, division in the community and drumming up of violent emotions which set black against black."

Viljoen: Population 78 Percent Black by 2020

MB241543 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of education and development aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, says within a timeframe of 34 years, the South African population will be 78 percent black. Thus, teacher training is quite important for everyone in South Africa. Dr Viljoen made these remarks at a teacher graduation ceremony at Sebokeng Teacher Training College in the East Rand. He said his department will make annual adjustments to cater for the anticipated 50,000 students per year increase of students. This means building up 60 schools per year, and providing 60 headmasters per year.

Nine AZAPO Officials Detained in Past Week

MB252007 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2005 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 25, SAPA — Nine office bearers of the Azanian People's Organisation [AZAPO] were detained this week, AZAPO said in a statement to SAPA tonight. Among them are Mr George Wauchope, secretary general, and Mr Pendelani Nefolovhodwe, head of the community development secretariat of AZAPO, the statement claimed.

"These detentions are an indication of a well-orchestrated manoeuvre to frustrate and destablise the forthcoming AZAPO planning congress to be held in Durban over the Easter weekend where crucial decisions will be taken about the intensification of disciplined resistence against racial oppression," the statement said.

Mr Wauchope and Mr Nefolovhodwe were leaving a hall in Namakgale near Tzaneen where they had addressed a large crowd on Sunday to commemorate "Heroes Day" (March 21) when they were allegedly detained by the Lebowa police.

They are still being held at the Namagkale police cells and have been refused visits, according to the AZAPO statement. Detained with them are Mr Mmutle Phafha, Mr Jake Maphabathe and Mr Oupa Maleka.

Earlier, in Bekkersdal, in the western Transvaal members of the South African Defence Force are alleged to have detained Mr John Mnguni and Mr Jacob Mokoane, both officials of the Bekkersdaal branch of AZAPO, the statement said. Mr Makoane was reported to be in hospital where he is being treated for dog bites sustained when he was being held.

At the Ginsberg location near King Williams Town Mr Lungas Lifune, chairman, and Mr Mcedisi Ngoloyi, treasurer of the local branch were fetched from the home of the late Mr Steve Biko and detained yesterday morning.

Restriction Orders on Issel, Manuel Lifted

MB260546 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2159 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] [No date line as received] — The restriction orders on community leaders Mr Johnny Issel and Mr Trevor Manuel have been lifted after being found invalid "for technical reasons" by the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange.

Mr Issel was restricted for three years in 1983 and Mr Manuel for five years last November, both under the Internal Security Act.

A lawyer for the two men was told today by a member of the deputy state attorney's office that Mr le Grange had "conceded that the orders were of no force or effect."

The lawyer, Mr Ebrahim Mohamed, was told that Mr le Grange had found the restriction notices to be invalid as they did not comply with the provisions of the Internal Security Act. Mr Mohamed said the minister had made this finding after receiving notice from Mr Issel and Mr Manuel that they would bring a court application to declare the orders invalid.

Mr Mohamed said this notice had been given "following the recent Supreme Court decision invalidating the banning order of Mr Mkhuseli Jack."

Mr Jack's order was set aside when it was found that Mr Le Grange had not stated reasons for issuing the order.

A spokesman for Mr le Grange confirmed yesterday that the restriction notices of the two men were no longer in force. He said that in the light of the appeal court decision of April 20 invalidating the detention orders of 16 people, the order had been withdrawn "for technical reasons."

The appeal court declared the detention orders of the 16 invalid after finding that Mr le Grange had insufficient grounds for the detentions.

In terms of their restrictions, Mr Issel and Mr Manuel were prevented from visiting educational institutions, participating in publications and were restricted to their magisterial districts.

Mr Issel said the lifting of his order would enable him "to contribute, unfettered, to a peaceful and just society. I think the government has to come to terms with negotiating with authentic leaders. The restrictions on all these leaders have to be removed."

Restrictions on Durban's Last Banned Person Dropped

MB260550 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In Durban, the banning order on the city's last remaining listed person has been dropped. He is Rowley Arenstein, who is also the longest-serving banned person in South Africa. Carmel Rickard has details.

[Rickard] Since 1951, Rowley Arenstein has been a listed person, and was first banned in 1953. From 1960 until yesterday he has been either banned, house-arrested, or in jail. Following several appeal court decisions last week, his lawyers wrote to the minister of law and order, threatening to go to court unless the minister admitted that the bans were invalid. A letter from the minister yesterday said that for technical reasons, they were invalid. As in the case of other banned people whose orders have been dropped this week, this still means the minister may reword banning orders and serve new restrictions. In the case of Mr Arenstein, he may still not be quoted, as he is a listed person, but it does mean he may leave Durban without special persimssion to attend gatherings, and go for the first time into KwaMashu and Umlazi, all activities prohibited by his banning orders.

Ciskei Ex-Minister To Be Tried for Subversion

MB241910 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1904 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Zwelitsha, March 24, SAPA — A former Ciskei cabinet minister, Mr B. Myataza and nine other people from Sada near Whittlesea were each granted a R1,000 bail in the Zwelitsha regional court today.

The case was postponed because the blind ex-cabinet minister is in hospital. They were not asked to plead and no evidence was led. In previous appearances they were refused bail.

The accused are Mr Myataza, 76, Mr J.N. Mdlalo, 75, Mrs holda Mdwaba, 50, Mr S. Sishuba, 47, Mr M. Sigabi, 37, Mr S. Mayekiso, 37, Mr V. Panya, 23, Mr X. Malobola 33, Mr V. Shange, 27 and Mr D. James, 25. They are charged with subversion.

Allegations against the men include:

On August 30 Mr Myataza addressed a meeting at Mhlotshana High School telling scholars to publicly continue the struggle for liberation. He further encouraged the scholars not to let the police roam around the townships without killing them.

Mr Mayekiso told scholars not to attend school until such time that those of them who were detained were released by the police.

Mr Shange gave a speech in which he said Mr Sebe was a stooge.

Mr Myataza insulted the police by accusing them of being uncircumcised and of killing children.

Mr Myataza, Mr Mdlalo, Mr Panya, Mr Shange, Mr Malobola, Mrs Mdwaba and Mr James allowed themselves to be elected to form a residents association to handle grievances discussed (as received).

This committee encouraged residents to treat the police as "terrorists and to burn anyone who corroborated with the police as a spy."

Conditions of bail are that they are not to attend or address gatherings of more than 10 people, they may not attend or address funeral services without the permission of the investigating officer, they are prohibited from entering educational institutions and may not enter the district of Whittlesea.

Port Elizabeth Approves Opening All Beaches

MB260944 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0941 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, March 26, SAPA — The Port Elizabeth City Council last night decided by 14 votes to seven to open all beaches under its jurisdiction to all races. If approved by the administrator of the Cape, this will be effective from July1.

It was the second time the council debated this issue. Both the mayor, Mr Ben Olivier, and the Deputy mayor, Mr Solly Rubin, voted in favour of the motion tabled by Mr Ivan Krigs.

Yesterday the divisional council of Dias, including Port Elizabeth and surrounding areas, recommended that a 3.5 km length of coastline near the Willows Holiday resort outside Port Elizabeth be desegregated. This means that the entire divisional coastline from Noordhoek to Schoenmakerskop, except the whites-only Willows Resort, will be open to all races, subject to the approval of the administrator.

Students of 3 Universities Support Meeting ANC

MB251006 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2014 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 24, SAPA — About 6,100 students at three English-speaking universities in South Africa have so far voted almost overwhelmingly in favour of a National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) executive proposal that they visit the African National Congress in Lusaka soon.

At a meeting of about 1,100 students at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg today, the majority of students at a lunch-time meeting voted in favour of the NUSAS proposals. There are about 3,500 students registered at the university.

Miss Sandy Jocelyn, a member of the Students Representative Council (SRC), said there were 82 votes against and 38 abstentions.

A motion, put to the students by SRC president Mr Keven Orrien, in part read: "It is noted that there have been a number of surveys conducted which indicate widespread support for the ANC.

"There are a number of security laws which prevent knowledge about the ANC. We have to consult with the ANC if solutions are to be found about the conflict in South Africa," he said.

A meeting of students of the University of Natal in Durban to vote on the NUSAS proposals today was postponed until Wednesday following the fire bomb attacks on four departments — applied social science, social work, political science and history —on Friday night. Extensive damage was caused.

SRC president, Miss Meryl Plasket, said tonight that about 2,000 students had held a meeting to discuss what was to be done about the fires.

About 2,000 students at the University of Cape Town on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly in favour of meeting the ANC.

A further 3,000 students at the University of the Witwatersrand on Thursday also voted in favour of the proposals. There were 38 votes against and 32 abstentions.

KwaZulu Applies for Decentralization Incentives

MB241541 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1409 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 24, SAPA — KwaZulu has applied to the government for industrial decentralisation incentives at Madadeni and Newcastle to be equalised so that industry can be attracted to Newcastle.

This was announced in the KwaZulu legislative assembly today by the chief minister, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who said people in the Madadeni-Osizweni area desperately needed employment.

Newcastle had ample serviced industrial land available and there was little point in spending public money developing the infrastructure at Madadeni simply because the incentives to industrialists were higher there.

Dr Marius Spies, executive director of the KwaZulu finance and investment corporation, which administers the Madadeni industrial estate, said the application had been made in collaboration with the Newcastle Town Council.

Newcastle had 122.3 ha of proclaimed industrial land available, while further expansion at Madadeni would require additional investment in infrastructure and the relocation of several individuals holding title to the demarcated land — which would take time.

He said the present differential between incentives at Madadeni and Newcastle meant that a small factory establishing itself at Madadeni and employing 150 people, would be better off by R1 million over a seven-year period.

COSATU's Naidoo Comments on New Union

MB191717 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 19 Mar 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A big question mark hangs over a new black union being formed in South Africa. The United Union of Workers of South Africa is due to be formally launched in May, but officials of other black unions, such as the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU], claim that it is just a front for Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha Zulu movement, a claim hotly denied by Chief Buthelezi.

On the line to Durban, Julian Boudger asked COSATU's secretary general, Jay Naidoo, what, according to him, the links were between the new union and Inkatha.

[Begin recording] [Naidoo] We believe that there is a very direct link between Inkatha and the KwaZulu government and the formation of this new union. The press conference to announce the new union was convened yesterday by a senior member of the legislative assembly of the KwaZulu government and that is ample evidence of the involvemnt of Inkatha in the formation of this union.

[Boudger] Chief Buthelezi has actually denied that Inkatha has any direct connection with the union. Are you aware of that?

[Naidoo] We are not convinced by this denial. We have seen evidence in day to day activity of members, senior members of their legislative assembly, councillors who fall under the KwaZulu goverment, all actively trying to promote the new union. You see instances like in the Empangeni area, where councillors for a part of the Inkatha structures have denied us access as COSATU to hold and... [changes thought] stadia to hold meetings so we can see a very direct involvement of Inkatha in the formation of this union.

[Boudger] What motive, do you think, Inkatha might have in setting up such a union?

[Naidoo] We do not believe that it will have substantial success. Obviously, we are disturbed by the possibilities of division, we believe that the motive for forming the new union is to establish for Inkatha a constituency among workers, we are firmly in the belief that our organization is strong enough to withstand such attacks, and we are confident that we will strengthen the organization of COSATU in Natal.

[Boudger] So you do not see the union as a major threat to COSATU?

[Naidoo] We do not see the union as a major threat because the ways in which they have formed the union have actually made workers very suspicious of this union.

[Boudger] Now, Inkatha has said that it has been canvassing membership and says that the initial reaction among workers has been one of overwhelming support. Do you say that that is a fabrication on their part?

[Naidoo] Again, we would like to deny that. At yesterday's press conference, they could give no evidence of any factory which they have organized or are recognised, they could give no evidence of any membership that they have. So again I think it's very much a union that is on paper.

[Boudger] Now, Chief Buthelezi has said that the union was formed by disaffected COSATU members who were not happy with COSATU leadership and who said that COSATU's tactics were negative and destructive, especially in reference to policy on foreign disinvestment.

[Naidoo] We would like to very strongly deny this. As trade unionists, we have a very strong commitment to democracy and our greatest achievement has been to build structures where our membership and leadership express their views. All decisions are based on mandates we receive from our membership. In response to our strategies being negative and destructive, we would like to remind the accusers of COSATU that they themselves are very blind to the economic and political realities of South Africa. In relation to our policy on disinvestment, we would like to say that as the largest trade union movement in South Africa we have seen no substantial evidence that the policy of constructive engagement is a real change or a real force for change.

COSATU Establishes Witwatersrand Region

MB241157 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1044 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 24, SAPA — The Confederation [as received] of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) established its Witwatersrand region at a conference at the weekend. The new region becomes the grouping of trade union's second largest operation in the country. The congress was held in Kathlehong on Saturday and was followed yesterday by a rally attended by between 3000 and 4000 people.

The new region encompasses 18 trade unions in the Witwatersrand area and the congress was attended by 640 delegates. Mr Mamood Fadel was elected as the vice chairman, while Mr Ronald Mofokeng was voted in as treasurer. Mr Bangi Solo was elected as the region's acting secretary.

At a news conference in Johannesburg today, Mr Nkuma said that apart from the establishment of the Witwatersrand regions and the election of office bearers, little progress was made at the congress as time would not permit any resolutions to be passed.

Mr Nkuma did say, however, that informal discussions were held on a number of issues such as the national education crisis and the establishment of May 1 as a paid holiday.

Officials Call for Unity

MB241231 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2219 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 23, SAPA — Between 8000 and 10000 people attended a meeting today to hear militant calls for unity and action at the official western Cape launch of the 600,000-strong Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

COSATU president, Mr Elijah Barayi, called on workers and students to unite to bring down the South African Government. He said workers would do battle with the security forces if necessary, but "we also say let us sit down and talk. The time has come for the government to sit down and talk to the workers, because this land will be ruled by the workers."

He said that "from today" workers should refuse to pay taxes "to buy more casspirs, more bullets" and must cease paying rent on their "matchbox township houses."

At the official launch of COSATU in Durban in December, he said, the federation gave the government six months in which to scrap the pass laws. "If the government does not listen, we will burn our passes, because it is through these books that we are made slaves."

He and other speakers launched a campaign for the release from prison of 76-year-old cape unionist, Mr Oscar Mpetha — who Mr Barayi described as "the father of the trade union movement." A message of support said to come from Mr Mpetha — a diabetic who had a leg amputated and who is presently serving a five year jail term in Pollsmoor prison — was read out which lauded the launch of COSATU as leading South Africa "forward to socialism through the struggle of the working class."

Appealing to workers to support the youth of South Africa in their battles, Mr Barayi said that "our message to the South African Government is that you shoot our youth, but freedom is on the way, the government must know that the tree of freedom is watered with blood."

Mr Barayi and northern Natal executive member, Mr Jerry Ntombela, launched stinging attacks on Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi and Inkatha, which recently launched the United Workers Union South Africa in opposition to COSATU.

The rally was marked by repeated calls for the release from prison of the leaders of the African National Congress, the unbanning of the ANC, and praise for the movement's leadership. When a large group of youths bearing the ANC flag ran into the stadium, a roar went up from the crowd, who began chanting "Viva, Viva" (long live).

Mr Noel Williams, COSATU western Cape vice chairperson, said that "today Cape history is being made, the workers revolution has begun. The factories and the land of South Africa belong to us. We have sees that the students have become militant, they do not want to be educated to be slaves in South Africa, the students are building a new South Africa. We as workers must support that action of the students because an injury to one is an injury to all."

Situation at Van Dyks Mine Back to Normal

MB241648 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1505 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 24, SAPA — Conditions returned to normal today at the Van Dyks Drift mine after the work stoppage last week when workers refused to comply with the mines exit and entry procedures, a spokesman for the mine said today.

Job Reservation in Mines Appears Near End

MB260919 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Job reservation on the mines is on the verge of collapse. Talks on the subject between the Chamber of Mines and the white mining unions appear to have achieved a breakthrough, although some differences still remain.

It is now up to the minister of mineral and energy affairs to examine the proposals which have been forwarded to him, and he is likely to introduce legislation during the current Parliament session.

At present, black workers are prevented from operating in 13 key job categories in terms of the Scheduled Persons Clause. The white mining unions, which have been totally against the scrapping of job reservation, are still said to be opposed to opening union membership to all workers.

Youths Enforce Boycott in Pretoria Township

MB251002 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0925 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 25, SAPA — Groups of youths yesterday started enforcing the indefinite consumer boycott in three of Pretoria's townships and one in Bophuthatswana.

The youths were seen stopping cars and pedestrians in Mamelodi, Soshanguve, Atteridgeville/Saulsville and Ga-Rankuwa. Witnesses said the youths searched people to ensure that the boycott of white-owned shops, which came into effect yesterday, was observed.

There were no clashes reported, but a witness said he saw copies of a newspaper — earmarked for boycott in Mamelodi — confiscated from commuters and torn to pieces.

People who failed to observe the boycott yesterday put the blame on "bogus" pamphlets which were distributed at the weekend. The pamphlets said the boycott would start on April 7 — and not on March 24 as initially arranged. The PCBC (Pretoria Consumer Boycott Committte) which is organising the current boycott, denied the knowledge of the pamphlets.

Meanwhile, businessmen in Mamelodi and Atteridgeville have said they would take legal action if their businesses were interfered with during the consumer boycott. The businessmen's statement comes in the wake of a rumour circulating in the townships that police intended to close shops in the areas to "sabotage" the activities of the PCBC.

But Brigadier Hertzog Lerm, divisional inspector for northern Transvaal, said there was no truth in the rumour. He would not allow such a measure to be taken.

The boycott was called to pressure government to, among other actions, withdraw security forces from the townships, unban COSAS, (Congress of South African Students], release political detainees and lower rents. The PCBC has also listed other demands, some of which have now been met.

Gangs of Youths Stealing Petrol in Soweto

MB241539 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1456 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 24, SAPA — Gangs of youths in Soweto are getting petrol at service stations and driving off without paying, a Soweto garage owner and police said today.

A Soweto youth was arrested when he and three others crashed into the glass door of a filling station in their bid to avoid paying for petrol. The youth, driving a stolen panel van, stopped at the Emdeni garage, owned by a Soweto councillor, Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, to fill up the tank. Once they had filled up, the youths refused to pay and drove off. Mr Tshabalala and his staff rushed out to try and stop the van. The driver then apparently lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the glass door.

One youth was apprehended and handed over to the police but his colleagues managed to get away. The damage caused is estimated at R10000. A police spokesman said the youth is expected to appear in court soon.

Mr Tshabalala said such incidents were now a daily occurrence. Last night Mr Tshabalala's house was petrol-bombed, causing extensive damage.

Bophuthatswana Police Open Fire on Crowd, Kill 7

MB261249 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1248 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 26, SAP — Seven people were killed, scores injured and about 1000 arrested, when Bophuthatswana police opened fire on a large crowd in Winterveld today.

Bophuthatswana police said seven had been killed. An official at the Ga-Rankuwa hospital said only one body had arrived there.

Col M.A. Molope, the district commandant of the Bophuthatswana police in Mabopane and Ga-Rankuwa, confirmed the incident and said a large crowd had held an illegal gathering in an open space in the area. Col Molope said he instructed the people to disperse but instead they threw stones and petrol bombs at the police.

The shooting incident happened shortly after 11am. Thirty unused petrol bombs were confiscated, he said.

Scores of injured people surrounded by police — some with bullet wounds — waited for more than an hour before they could be taken either to the hospital or the police station. The dead have not yet been identified.

Black Man 'Necklaced' in Chesterville

MB261309 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1307 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 26, SAPA — A black man died when he was "necklaced" in unrest in Chesterville township near Durban this morning, a spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations confirmed in Pretoria.

Details on Killing of 8 in Port Elizabeth 25 Mar

MB260909 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0813 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, March 26, SAPA — Eight people died when police fired shots to disperse a large crowd that stormed a bottle store in Salamntu Street in Kwazakele, Port Elizabeth yesterday afternoon.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gerrie van Rooyen, SA police liaison officer for the eastern Cape, said last night two men — aged 20 and 45 — were killed when police tried for two hours to keep the people, some of whom were armed with petrol-bombs and stones, from storming the bottle store.

An overnight police report from Pretoria said today eight people died in the incident. Tearsmoke was fired, a sneeze machine was used and eventually shots were fired, Col Van Rooyen said. It could not be established last night whether anyone else was injured "because they do not come to us," he said.

In Koyana Street, Zwide, a closed shop belonging to the former mayor of Ibhayi Town Council, Mr Tamsanqa Linda, was damaged and a vehicle said to belong to Mr Z.H. Putu, an Ibhayi town councillor, was overturned and set alight by rioting mobs in Veeplaas.

Local newspaper reporters were told by people at the scene that they had been hit by birdshot. Col Van Rooyen said police had not fired anything except tearsmoke in Koyana Street yesterday afternoon. He added that the whole of Koyana Street had been barricaded by burning objects yesterday afternoon.

Police could also not confirm that Mr Linda's shop had been damaged. Local reporters said a burning van was blocking Koyana Street in front of Mr Linda's shop. There were also scattered, trampled groceries in the street, which people there said had been looted from Mr Linda's shop.

Police Issue Latest Overnight Unrest Report

MB260639 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0635 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 26, SAPA — Following is the overnight unrest situation report issued to SAPA by the Police Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

In Kagiso, a beerhall was petrol-bombed. A guard dispersed the arsonists with shotgun fire. Three youths were admitted to hospital. One subsequently died while the other two were slightly wounded.

In the same area, a private vehicle was destroyed when it was set on fire.

In Soweto, a private vehicle was extensively damaged by stonethrowers. Also in Soweto, a mob threw a petrol-bomb at a black man. One of them — a youth — was arrested.

At Old Crossroads, in the western Province, a number of private vehicles were stoned. As a result, the driver of one of them, a white woman, lost control and collided with another vehicle. She was seriously injured. Police dispersed the stonethrowers with shotgun fire, wounding a man. The vehicles were both extensively damaged.

On one occasion, five heavy calibre shots were fired at a private vehicle and three at a police vehicle. On another, a white man in a vehicle was slightly injured by stonethrowers.

Police fired on a mob which stoned their vehicle, fatally wounding two youths, while two others were arrested. In the same area, petrol-bombs were hurled at a police vehicle.

At KwaZakhele, Port Elizabeth, police vehicles were stoned and petrol bombed. Police fired tearsmoke and shotguns to disperse their attackers. Two men were fatally wounded and four others arrested.

In the same area, a bottle store was extensively damaged by arsonists. Police fired tearsmoke and shotguns to disperse the mob, wounding and arresting two men. Another 4 men were also arrested.

Policemen were placed on observation duty in the same bottle store. Approximately 100 blacks rushed into the building, throwing petrol-bombs in the passage. The policemen, whose lives were threatened, fired shotguns to repel the attack, fatally wounding eight men and seriously wounding two others.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report]

Cabinet Changes Likely

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 22 March reports on page 1 that "a major cabinet reshuffle is expected at mid-year, when the country moves into the second phase of the new dispensation, with 'General Affairs' provincial administrations and Regional Service Councils. In Parliamentary circles it is regarded as an 'open secret' that Mr Louis le Grange, minister of law and order, and Dr Lapa Munnik, minister of posts and telecommunications, will step down, probably in July." One suggestion is that the president may take a look at the constitutional development and the educational development aid departments and separate their constitutional and their purely administrative functions. When Le Grange steps down, the way will be cleared to create a new national security department. The front-runners for president, Chris Heunis, F.W. de Klerk, Gerrit Viljoen, and Pik Botha will retain their policy-making positions, and a newcomer will head national security affairs, possibly Adriaan Vlok, deputy minister of both defense and law and order, or General Magnus Malan.

Hijacking Cars

In its editorial on page 6, the paper says the "hijacking of cars near Alexandra Township and in Soweto is plain thuggery." Youths have been surrounding drivers at intersections and threatening them with burning if they do not give up their cars. In Soweto youths are forcing drivers to take them where they want to go and then burning the cars. If people cannot travel safely on the roads, the paper says, the country will be near anarchy. "We are concerned not only about this criminal acitivity, but about the tendency of some black youngsters to act in a most brutal and inhuman fashion." The unconcern for life and property means that the "comrades" have abandoned civilized values. The paper reminds them of the need for education with the possibility of a 1 April school boycott approaching. "Community leaders and parents must see to it that their children remain at school and that they end their violence before it engulfs the townships in a further wave of death and destruction."

Durban Fires

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 24 March reports on page 1 that the paper had learned police in Durban were questioning both leftwing and rightwing students at Natal University in connection with the fires over the weekend. Police have not determined how the fires started. The university has also appointed a committee to investigate the incident.

ANC and Hijackings

Helen Simpson reports on the same page that the commissioner for police in Soweto "is convinced the recent spate of car hijackings and robberies near Alexandra and Soweto are politically motivated. 'These acts are being carried out by the ANC Youth Brigade and are part of a well organised strategy to make the country ungovernable,' he said." He added: " 'They are trying to form a people's army. This is not just plain thuggery but a well co-ordinated strategy organised from outside the country.' "

Relook at Banning Legislation

The government is examining legislation on bannings and detentions "after setbacks the system has suffered in recent court decisions," the Johannesburg *STAR* in English for 24 March reports on page 1. A spokesman for the department of law and order said the minister would "have another look" at provisions of the Internal Security Act, in terms of which people were banned. It appears as if three options are available: reissuing banning orders and giving reasons; lifting banning orders; or changing legislation. A Progressive Federal Party [PFP] spokesman said any attempt to withdraw all banning orders and to issue fresh ones with no reasons, or attempts to tighten up legislation, would result in "widespread national and international reaction. The only way out was to allow a form of judicial testing of whether justifiable reasons, in terms of the act, existed."

STAR on Banning, Detention Orders

An editorial on page 16 says the appeal court's decision to invalidate 16 detention orders because the police and the law and order minister had not supplied reasons "was a timely reminder that a certain arrogance" had crept into the authority's dealings with people deemed to be troublemakers. However, the minister can reimpose the banning orders anytime — this time with reasons. Similarly, Mkhuseli Jack can be silenced again. At least, however, the minister will have to give reasons and "for the moment that is some sort of achievement." It is a message to the outside world that "the rule of law still breathes. And it is a message to the minister and his servants that the law still protects individual rights, frail though it now may be."

Solution to Unrest

Jon Qwelane writes on page 17 that the countrywise unrest — well into its second year — is seemingly unabating. When P.W. Botha lifted the state of emergency 2 weeks ago he said the unrest was abating, but in those 2 weeks fresh violence and confrontation have taken place almost every day over wide areas of the country. Many black and white leaders and ordinary citizens are stressing that increasing the number of police in the troubled townships is not the way to solve the problem. While that might seem to work in the short term, "long-term solutions would have to be political."

Problems Facing Agriculture

A report on page 22 says the "inflation spiral combined with the twin problems of rising input costs and debt will inevitably put such a stranglehold on agriculture that despite a more promising outlook it will have to turn to the government for more help." Volkskas' [People's Bank] "Economic Spotlight" says agriculture has probably been affected a great deal more seriously by inflation than most other sectors. It says the government should see the low level of profitability as restricting new farmers from entering the field, causing a decline in the number of full-time farmers and seriously limiting farmers' ability to recover after drought conditions. The debt burden deteriorated from 11.5 percent in 1975 to 26.5 percent in 1985, and while the value of farming assets rose on average from 1975-85 by 9.8 percent a year, the debt burden showed an increase of 19.2 percent a year in the same 10-year period.

Vaal Stayaway

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 24 March on page 2 reports that 2,000 Vaal residents resolved "to stayaway from work in protest at several issues, including the continued arrest by the Lekowa Town Council of rent defaulters. The meeting was in Sebokeng. A pamphlet issued by the committee demanded the release of all people arrested for rent arrears, an end to issuing of summonses for non-payment of rents, the resignation of all councillors and the scrapping of the Black Local Authorities Act, the release of the Delmas treason trialists and all trialists connected to the rent strike, the unbanning of the Congress of South African Students, the recognition of May Day as a holiday, the withdrawal of troops from the townships and a halt to assaults by township guards."

SOWETAN on Bannings

In an editorial on page 4, the paper welcomes the court ruling setting aside the banning of Mkhuseli Jack and welcomes the limited curbs which the court placed on the law and order minister. However, "we believe this country should not have people detained without trial or people who are banned." "Justice demands that before you punish a man, you should give him a fair trial, where evidence against him is led [as published] and he can defend himself before an impartial judge. We need to retrieve this sense of justice from under the carpet, where it has been swept. But to be a truly just society, we need to ensure that the people tried in our courts have been party to the laws under which they are being tried."

Flush Out COSAS

An article by Monk Nkomo on page 11 reports that "squatters" in Koekenhout, near Mabopane, in Bophuthatswana, were given 14 days to leave after they rejected police orders to "form vigilante groups in the area to flush out political activists." A spokesman for the squatters said they were told to " 'hunt members of the Congress of South African Students.' " A Bophuthatswana Government spokesman said the squatters were " 'not forced' " to assist the police.

British Ban

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 24 March reports on page 1 from London that "Britain's strongest television and film technicians union yesterday voted to impose a series of wide-ranging bans on their dealings with South Africa." The technicians "voted overwhelmingly to ban all film and video productions involving SA, with the exception of news and current affairs." They also voted that commercials for South African products would not be "produced, processed, distributed nor transmitted in Britain."

Public Sector Pay

"Public-sector pay is growing at a much faster rate than that of the rest of the economy," John Tilston reports on page 1 of *BUSINESS DAY*. In the years before September 1985, the average public-sector salary increased 39.6 percent compared to general price increases of 30.7 percent. With the recently announced 10 percent increase, the average salary will be R985.19 per month.

Upswing Indicated

Lesley Lambert reports on the same page that "a modest but fairly broadly based economic upswing began during the fourth quarter of last year, according to Reserve Bank statistics." The bank's Quarterly Bulletin indicated that economic output increased in most sectors and some components of gross domestic expenditure started to show a moderate recovery. The publication points out that two factors restrain economic recovery, high inflation and the need to reduce the country's foreign debt, "which requires a level of overall expenditure compatible with the surplus on the current account of the balance of payments."

MP Salaries on Ice

"Although government has accepted in principal substantial improvements in pay and service conditions for parliamentarians, recommended by the Schlebusch Committee, these are all being kept on ice for the moment," the paper reports on page 2. The government is waiting for the economic climate to improve, according to one MP. He still hope that a R10,000 grant for secretarial assistance in the MP'S district might be possible.

Price Rises Feared

According to consumer organizations, "all government-administered basic-food prices would be substantially higher by mid year to load living costs of poor people intolerably," the paper reports on the same page. The increases would be due partly to reduced government subsides. Although a bread price increase might be postponed, a large increase was certain in October when the new, higher producer what price would be announced.

BUSINESS DAY on Budget

In an editorial on page 6, the paper says that "few who think about government spending have much confidence in Finance Minister Barend du Plessis' declared intention to limit outlays to an increase of 14 percent in the current fiscal year, especially if, at best, inflation turns out at an annual rate of 15 percent." The skeptism will persist "because government's record of overspending substantially is frankly rather bad." The Reserve Bank efforts to keep check on money supply growuth will make interest rates rise if the government overspends. However, the bank might be tempted to find it conveniently impossible to keep within targets. However, the paper is going to chart monetary growth, M3, on a weekly basis and "if Church Square is not spot on, we and many others are going to demand to know the reason why." "Money supply targets may yet turn out to be the best scourge the monetarists and supply-siders at the Reserve Bank have to restrain their interventionist cousins at the Union Building."

BUSINESS DAY on Education

In an editorial on page 6, *BUSINESS DAY* says that it is quite proper that education expenditure should be the largest single item in the budget because "our society must be modernised. But the cost of modernisation — and education is the central pillar of this process — is awesome." There are only two ways to fund modernization, increasing expenditure as a result of increased economic growth or redistributing wealth, which means "lowering of present standards to find the lowest common denominator." The prospects of economic growth are limited, however. To increase economic growth and improve the prospect for jobs, "we need to see more action from government than simply an increase in expenditure on education, welcome as it is. We need to see the economy unshackled. We need to see entrepreneurship encouraged by greater tax cuts and by the slashing of red tape. We need to open our society so that anyone with a spirit of enterprise can fruitfully put his ideas to work, and in this way generate wealth and jobs."

BUSINESS DAY on Wage Increases

In its third editorial on the same page, the paper says that other companies should follow the example of the Anglo American Industrial Corporation [AMIC] in negotiating wage increases with unions and show them a value added table. AMIC's table showed that of the values added, 55 percent went to employees and 5 percent to government, while only 18 percent was retained for expansion of the business. Such figures should dispel popular black beliefs that "most of the income of companies goes to management, that the government is the main supplier of capital and that wages absorb a small percentage of net income. Wage negotiations should also be an educational process."

PFP MP Questions Le Grange

Political reporter Ebrahim Moosa reports on page 2 of Cape Town *CAPE TIMES* in English on 21 March that PFP media spokesman and MP for Sandton David Dalling has asked Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange for more details on the barring of *CAPE TIMES* reporter Chris Bateman from police crime briefings after Bateman's reporting of the Guguletu shootout. Dalling submitted the written questions to Le Grange in Parliament and said they are aimed "at seeking clarity on whether the steps taken against the reporter were in terms of the agreement reached between the South African Police and the Newspaper Press Union."

Saunders Criticizes Constitution

"The new tricameral constitution was unworkable, too costly and was skewing national priorities, the principal of the University of Cape Town, Dr Stuart Saunders, said last night," Barry Streek reports on page 4. In his presidential address to the South African Institute of Race Relations, Saunders said multiple education departments were inefficient and expensive and the country did not have the manpower to staff those departments with qualified people. "He also said that he knew of 'no one in government or out of it who has experience in health-service delivery, who will defend "own affairs" and "general affairs" hospitals.' "

Squatters Harassed

"Squatters living at Vrygrond near Muizenberg are being forced to dismantle their shelters every morning and reerect them at night to avoid having them demolished and their building materials confiscated by City Council workers," the paper reports on page 6. An official of the New World Foundation, "which is involved in community development in the area," said that "at least 30 families — considered illegal in terms of the Illegal Squatting Act — were subject to daily harassment by council officials." A city official said the council " 'is doing everything in its power to find a humane solution to the problem' " and plans to ask the government to be allowed "to act in contravention of the existing policy."

CAPE TIMES on Saunders Warning

Commenting on Stuart Saunders' presidential address to the Institute of Race Relations in an editorial on page 10, the paper says one theme of the speech "which is particularly timely is Dr Saunders' strongly voiced concern about the dangers of giving undue powers, inadequately controlled, to any police or security force." "In warning against police excess, Dr Saunders joins forces with leading citizens such as Dr Jan Steyn, director of the Urban Foundation, and Dr F van Zyl Slabbert, former leader of the Opposition, who have expressed similar concerns. Is it not time the government took note?"

Saunders on Botha Promises

Also on page 10, the paper carries an "edited extract" of Saunder's speech, in which he says that the "full realization of the promises and commitments, stated and implied," in State President's P.W. Botha's speech at the opening of Parliament "could indeed herald a new day for South Africa, and could revolutionize in a peaceful and constructive manner race relations in this country." However, "failure to give legislative muscle and failure to repeal discriminatory legislation will do the reverse." In order for Botha's promises to have any meaning, "the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act and the Natives Land Act must be repealed." The country must move "away completely from making race the final determinant in all decisions in the political structures" and replace it "by placing human rights and non-racial considerations on centre-stage." Saunders notes that "there are high expectations among South African blacks of real change — to deny them that would be very dangerous. Indeed apartheid cannot be reformed."

Record Number of Liquidations

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 22 March reports on page 2 that a record number of business liquidations took place last year. The report says about 6,000 businesses, including well-known companies, were liquidated, the total amount involved being 84 million rands. "The number of insolvencies during 1985 rose by an alarming 96.8 percent, while that during the last quarter dropped by 7.1 percent."

Call for Christian Front

On page 8, in his "Political *BEELD*" column, writer "Dawie" says South Africa is on the road to a new future, the details of which cannot yet be spelled out, but at the same time the daily unrest is making it clear which direction the country cannot afford to take. "The extremists are displaying such a spirit of intolerance and destruction that right-thinking people cannot even indicate their abhorence enough, and want nothing to do with it." He notes the incident at Witwatersrand University when students heckled UNITA speakers and reports from Soweto of gangs of youths attacking each other, while in Guguletu the so-called "Fathers" and "Comrades" are locked in fierce fighting. These differences of opinion, he writes, are at the root of the suspicion and fear found in the wider political arena in the country. "Chaos and anarchy can only be overcome by a common front of reasonable people. The government has prepared the table for this, but further and clearer action is needed." The church is one institution which can play an important role in promoting greater understanding. "Christians make up by far the majority in South Africa, and a united Christian front can form a bastion against a communist onslaught of enslavement and anarchy."

Conservative Councillor To Resign From Church

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 24 March reports on page 4 that the church council of the Dutch Reformed Church community in Algoa Bay in Port Elizabeth is to consider steps against a Conservative Party city councillor who has threatened to resign from the church council if a colored choir is allowed to sing at the church. Parish Priest L. du Toit, confirming that Chris Meyer had informed him that he would resign, said that Mr Meyer was welcome to resign. " 'If Mr Meyer does not resign, the church will be forced to ask him to do so, because politics do not belong in the church,' Mr du Toit added."

Colored Students Banned From Pool

On page 3 the paper reports that physical education students at the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), among whose number are included three colored students, will in future have to use a municipal swimming pool, following the ban on the colored students using the pool at Goudstad Teacher Training College. The report says the ban followed complaints by students at Goudstad over the use of their pool by the colored students, but adds that since its inception, RAU has always been allowed to use the swimming facilities at Goudstad.

DIE VADERLAND on Wits Incident

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 21 March says in an editorial on page 8 that while Witwatersrand University is one of the best, the authorities at the institution are not renowned for their control of the radical students there. This was confirmed again this week when members of the Black Students Society (BSS) at Wits made it impossible for the UNITA visitors to address a student audience. "It is notable that this was a case where black students who have involved themselves in freedom for black South Africans reacted so aggressively to a visit by three black freedom fighters/guerrillas from another country, Angola." The paper says that disciplinary action by the university authorities is needed, but it points out that this will not change the attitude of the BSS members. For that, political missionary work is needed.

RAPPORT on Wits Incident

Johannesburg *RAPPORT* in Afrikaans on 23 March in an editorial on page 14 says: "Scandalous. There is no other word for the behavior of some Wits students toward representatives of the Angolan resistance movement UNITA." The point is not that the Wits students are more inclined to favor the Marxist MPLA regime in that country. Rather, what is involved here is the democratic right of free speech and just plain ordinary decency — of which the students involved have apparently not the slightest idea.

White Spinal Unit at Hospital

"Nobody would be refused admission to the white spinal unit of the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital on the grounds of colour, the MEC [member of executive committee] for Hospital Services in Transvaal, Mr Dan Kirstein, told *THE STAR* last night," Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 25 March reports on page 1. Kirstein visited "the Muslim section of the hospital" to check on the condition of a 27-year-old Cape Malay woman who was paralyzed from the neck down after a car accident. She has since been moved to a private ward and special equipment has been installed in her room. Kirstein denied that the woman "had not been admitted to the spinal unit because of her colour, but admitted the unit was for whites and for crucial cases."

Atteridgeville Blockade

"Members of the security forces yesterday stopped Atteridgeville traders from collecting food and other supplies from delivery trucks at the township entrance," the paper reports on page 3. "The blockade has been viewed by the local residents as a countermove to the boycott of white businesses in Pretoria, which started yesterday," but the divisional inspector of the northern Transvaal police, Brigadier Hertzog Lerm, attributed it to the " 'tense situation which already prevailed in the townships in the early hours of yesterday morning.' " Lerm added that businessmen were able to collect their supplies later in the day and the situation returned to normal.

Bread Price Rise Possible

"Funds made available by the Wheat Board will temporarily prevent an increase in the bread price — but the price could still rise after September this year," Estelle Trengove reports on page 3. It was possible that wheat producers would ask for an "adaptation in the wheat price" after the wheat season ended in September which would affect the Wheat Board's contribution to the bread subsidy and the price of bread.

Budget Debate Discriminatory

"The fact that the main budget would only be debated in the House of Assembly was discriminatory, the chairman of the Ministers Council in the House of Representatives, Mr Allan Hendrickse, said yesterday," the paper reports on page 4. Hendrickse added that "until all three Houses could discuss the budget together the practice would be seen as discrimination against other houses."

Sandton Favors Opening Cinemas

"The Sandton Town Council last night came out in favour of opening the eight cinemas in the town to all races," the paper reports on page 6. The council resolved to tell the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning that the council "strongly supported" the opening of all cinemas.

Lesotho 'Reserved' on Sanctions

"Lesotho appears to be taking a more reserved line on the issue of support for international sanctions against South Africa," political correspondent David Braun reports on page 7. After a meeting with his South African counterpart in Cape Town, Lesotho Foreign Minister Lengolo Monyake said " 'the issue of sanctions has not arisen with the present administration,' " adding " 'we have more important priorities to deal with.' "

Tutu on Education Conference

"Apprehension — that is what the Anglican bishop of Johannesburg expresses when he views the forthcoming national consultative conference on education to be held this week in Durban," Jo-Anne Colligne ways on page 8. Bishop Tutu said he believed several of the demands made at the December educational conference had been met and that Deputy Education Minister Sam de Beer " 'has done a great deal in this sphere. But even if he did everything he was asked, it is — in a sense — irrelevant. The education problem is caused by the bigger problem (of apartheid).' " Bishop Tutu said the state of emergency had been lifted in name only and " 'tensions in the townships have not been reduced.' "

Star on Use of Intimidation

Commenting on the arson at the University of Natal and professors' home in an editorial on page 12, *THE STAR* notes whether the act was committed by the far right or the far left, "more and more, in today's febrile South Africa, political scores are settled through deeds of intimidation. Hit squads of vigilantes, white or blacks, lunatic right or rabid left, seem to strike almost at will at the lives and property of those they see as enemies." This brings the country that much closer to anarchy, which is "of course, a revolutionary aim: a principal victim, as in the Durban fires is the politics of moderation and negotiation." The authorities must not let this violence become a way of life and "should be seen to be hunting down all its perpetrators with even-handed vigour."

STAR Criticises Medunsa Stayaway

A second editorial on the same page discusses the mass stayaway by black students at the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA) over two white students' attendance at the school. These black students are practicing "apartheid in reverse," the paper says, and while there may be reasons for their protest, it is "unfortunate that the very people who have been clamouring for open education facilities should now see fit to demand the right to remain racially exclusive."

Reaction to Munsieville Decision

"The state president's announcement that Krugersdorp's troubled black township Munsieville will not be moved has evoked mixed feeling among residents," the paper says on page 13. The Krugersdorp Action Group has been circulating a petition calling for the township's removal and has already collected 11,000 signatures. Conservative Party Councillor Chris Viljoen likened the township to " 'cancer,' " which has to be fought, adding: " 'I will take on the whole Cabinet single-handed if I have to.' " Krugersdorp National Party MP Leon Wessels "was more optimistic about Mr Botha's announcement and the guidelines laid down — which include the K17 highway to act as a buffer area between the two settlements, the erection of security fences and high-density lights, and regular Defence Force patrols of the area. 'Many people have come back to me with a better understanding of the situation and the precautions (guidelines) have brought great relief. I have heard appreciation from both black and white.' " In a companion article on the same page, Chris More reports that Munsieville's residents "welcomed but were not impressed by State President Mr Botha's announcement that the community would not be removed despite a petition signed by more than 10,000 of their white neighbours."

Heunis on Black Housing

Addressing the annual general meeting of the National Homebuilders Association in Johannesburg, Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis "urged the private sector yesterday to get involved in the provision of housing for blacks," the paper reports on page 16. Heunis added that the government had "leaned backwards to remove all impediments that may in the past have prevented objectives for black housing being reached."

Support for Police in Townships

"White Afrikaans-speakers, who lived in major metropolitan areas and had a monthly income of less than R2,000 were likely to support the police presence in the townships, a Gallup poll has found," Bart Marinovich reports on the same page. Of the 1,000 people surveyed, 78 percent supported the police presence, 20 percent opposed it, and 2 percent were unsure. Afrikaners — 87 percent — were considerably more supportive of the SAP's role than their English speaking counterparts — 70 percent. The same applied to lower income whites: 81 percent of those with a monthly income of less than R2,000 approved of the police presence compared with 73 percent for those earning more." The strongest support came from the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area and other metropolitan areas.

End Assaults on Children

A delegation of women representing 14 organizations presented to Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange and Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee "a memorandum calling on the government to end alleged assaults, intimidation and harassment of children by the security forces and the immediate release of all children in detention," Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 25 March reports on page 2. The organizations said they were " 'horrified by the overwhelming evidence of violence perpetrated by the state. In fact at least 68 children have died. Thousands of children and their parents are demanding that the government listen to their grievances.' "

National Forum Meeting

"The third — and most decisive — National Forum will be held in Durban at the weekend," the paper reports on page 8. The meeting will "seriously look into the forms of action that could be taken to end apartheid in South Africa." Among the organizations attending will be the UDF and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). The meeting will be held 28-29 March. The organization released a statement in Johannesburg saying that "the National Forum is an organisation of blacks only and its policy is against association with whites."

Refugees Vindicated

In a "Focus" article on the same page, the paper cites the reaction of various people to the court order overturning banning orders, but in particular the individuals who took refuge in the British Consulate in 1984. Laurence Boulle, professor of public law at the University of Natal, called it a " 'landmark judgement,' " which emphasized the need for " 'judicial control of a government which increasingly disregards legal provisions. However, a thoroughly repressive law remains intact. That can only be remedied politically.' " UDF President Archie Gumede, one of the six refugees, said that the six had to take action based on an invalid order and said " 'it is very heartening that action has been taken to stop things like this.' " Another refugee, Mewa Ramgobin, called the judgement " 'an indictment of the security system in South Africa and a vindication of what we believe in and what we stand for.' " Marius Wiechers, a law professor at the University of South Africa, said he expected the ruling " 'to result in more control over ministerial use of discretionary powers — particularly in the field of security legislation.' "

Transfer of Amenities

"The Cabinet had approved the transfer of resorts, museums and library and auxiliary services identified as Own Affairs of Whites to the white administration, the minister of the budget, Mr F.W. de Klerk, said yesterday," the paper reports from the House of Assembly on page 4. In this House of Assembly budget speech he said that "finality had not yet been reached on the division of health services and local affairs matters now assigned to the provincial administration." " 'Sound progress has, however, been made with the identification of the Own Affairs aspects of these functions. It is trusted that finality will be reached during this session of Parliament.' " Mr de Klerk said the government was committed to promoting the interests of all races but "was convinced that the recognition of decision-making powers on Own Affairs best equipped any population group's leaders to achieve the best results for their people. The government would therefore continue to give full effect to the constitution." Guidelines would be drawn up for the privatization of any appropriate service within the white administration. "The minister said the transfer of provincial functions to the white administration would involve a massive transfer of work to the Ministers' Council of the House of Assembly." Consideration was therefore being given to devolution and decentralization.

Lesotho Talks

In a report on page 8, on the talks between Lesotho and South Africa on the Oxbow water scheme, Brian Stuart quotes Foreign Minister Pik Botha as telling him that " 'it is quite clear that both governments realise we must co-operate on a realistic and constructive basis. The two governments will give attention to the question of agreeing on structures that will make this practical co-operation more efficient.' " Lesotho's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lengolo Monyake "affirmed a statement by Mr Botha that the two governments were in accord on not allowing the use of their territories as a base for attack on their neighbors."

SWAPO Attack

"Intelligence feed back from the operational area indicates that the military wing of SWAPO is planning a belated, late rainy season incursion campaign from Angola into South West Africa." Keith Abendroth reports. "Sources say that this might be linked to the clearly stepped up planning of the Angolan military forces, FAPLA, backed by Cuban and Russian surrogate forces" to launch a campaign against UNITA. The SWAPO campaign "could bridge over into the FAPLA attack — SWAPO relying on the late season rain to help it with its infiltration."

Teachers Cautioned on Politics

"Teachers should avoid politics in their professional work and it was certainly not their task to prepare children to fit a particular political mould," Gerrit Viljoen, minister of education and development aid, told a graduation ceremony in Sasolburg for graduates of the local teachers college. He said teachers were not political appointees but " 'continued doing the same job in their communities regardless of what political winds might be blowing at any particular time.' " " 'It is in the teacher's avoidance of politics and his professionalism, that his strength lies.' "

Town Councillor Resigns

On the same page, the paper reports that black Kroonstad town councillor N.B. Blank has resigned, telling the paper that " 'people have told us that they no longer need us. I decided to bow to their demands after threats were made to my life as well as threats to boycott my shop.' "

Alexandra Businessmen

"Angry businessmen yesterday pledged to save their dying businesses in industrial areas near Alexandra township," Dominique Gilbert reports on page 1 of Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 25 March. A meeting of 150 usinessmen rebuked the town of Sandton for "failing to do enough to protect them," and several threatened to stop paying taxes immediately. A police spokesman said there would be an investigation of charges that police failed to respond to calls for assistance from businessmen.

Rand Drops

"The rand lost another 2 percent — falling to $0.4750 yesterday — as doubts continued about the Reserve Bank's ability to meet the acceleration of the repayment on its foreign debt," the paper reports on the same page. "Importers began taking cover to prevent exposure against further falls in the rand." In a related story on the same page, Lesley Lambert cites Finance Minister Barend du Plessis as saying that the "foreign debt deal does not necessarily mean funds will be withdrawn from the country if borrowers are able to make roll-over arrangements with foreign banks." He also said that "potential new borrowers of foreign funds would also be in a better position to negotiate for new loans." "He stressed that the Reserve Bank would not need any additional foreign exchange from the local market to facilitate the earlier withdrawal of funds."

British Ban Will Not Hurt

Another report on the same page says that the "proposed British ban on films and TV productions for SA and from SA will not have much impact on the local industry." According to one official, " 'the less stuff available the more we'll produce internally.' "

Editorial on British TV Ban

A second editorial on the same page says the British ban on supplyino films to South Africa is a step "down the cultural boycott road. And another step down the road towards piracy." Until now, South Africa has been active in helping to stamp out piracy but after a certain point "there will no longer be any apparent advantage in staying legal, and the Jolly Roger will be raised." In that case, producers of shows will lose a significant source of revenue.

BUSINESS DAY on Bannings

In a third editorial on page 6, the paper says it cannot help "a feeling of trepidation at the news that government is now reviewing its legislations and bannings and detentions" after recent court setbacks. "With our strong and independent judiciary, we do not need totalitarian measures more befitting the communist countries that our authorities so strongly decry. To use P.W. Botha's idiom, these laws, like apartheid, are outdated."

Police Reporting System

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 24 March reports on page 4 that the police have announced a new system by which the public can provide information without themselves getting involved. Colonel Vic Haynes, senior liaison officer, said the police have long been aware that people possess information which could assist the force, but fear for their safety if their identity had to become known. "'We now have answering machines at the larger centers in the country. People can call to give information regarding the country's security and the unrest situation, as well as any information which can be of use to the police in the execution of their duties,'" he said. Col Haynes pointed out that the system operates 24 hours a day.

VADERLAND Praises Police

In an editorial on page 12, the paper praises the prompt action of the police in foiling the petrol bombing of polecemen's homes in Soweto. "This action will contribute towards restoring confidence among black officials and others who want to live within the law, that they are being protected. And it will show the bands of murderers that the police are still a formidable force."

BEELD on Apartheid

Apartheid exists not only in the statute books, but in the hearts of people, where it is much more difficult to overcome, says an editorial on page 12 of the Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans of 25 March. We are reminded of this, it says, by the refusal by students at the Goudstad Teacher Training College to allow colored students of the Rand Afrikaans University to use their swimming pool. It is our misfortune, too, that such incidents keep the world spotlight on us and that every such issue is sought out and highlighted till it becomes a world shattering event. The fact that such a thing can still take place involving future Afrikaans teachers and intellectuals makes one lose hope for future relations. What can one expect from our future leaders if such examples are set for them by people who are in a position to reform in the hearts of future generations?

Commentary Views Upcoming Education Conference

MB260833 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] A grave responsibility rests on those black groups that have organised themselves into the National Education Crisis Committee [NECC] for a conference in Durban this weekend on black school attendance. In effect the NECC is going to decide — and will presumably be supported in its decision by a variety of politically activist groups — whether black pupils should remain at school this year. According to the organisers the decision will be taken on an assessment of government responses to demands made last December by the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee.

It is precisely in evaluating those demands and responses that any movement purporting to be concerned about education should be quite clear about where its duty lies. The long list of demands drawn up three months ago dealt with two distinctly different matters. The first was the state of black education and what was most urgently needed to make practical improvements. The second related to law enforcement activities designed to restore a measure of stability and personal safety in the black areas.

The legitimate educational demands obviously fall into the category of the reforms that are necessary if this country is to build a just dispensation for all its peoples. South Africa is committed to the broad goal of full political participation through structures determined by negotiation, equal opportunity for all and the removal of statutory discrimination. This is both a moral and a security imperative. And not the least of the conditions for its achievement is parity in education. That the school authorities have acted so expeditiously in consultation with the black groups concerned on the educational grievances is ample evidence of the widespread recognition that reform in this and other spheres is too important to be delayed by bureaucratic, political or any other obstacles.

As for the second matter that will occupy the weekend conference, it would be irresponsible and less than honest to ignore the educational implications of demands that could weaken the forces of law and order. As it happens, some of the demands were accommodated by changes in the overall situation in the country — for example, the state of emergency was lifted and teachers detained under emergency regulations were released. But the demand for the withdrawal of the law enforcement units from black areas has not been met. Nor is it going to be, while political radicals continue with their campaign of intimidating ordinary citizens, murdering dissidents, and creating the anarchy that will enable them to rule by fear.

It has been said that the challenge facing South Africa is to prevent violent revolution by succeeding with a peaceful revolution. If that is to be achieved, an essential precondition is the maintenance of a stable and law-abiding social framework within which democratic reform may proceed. It is a truism to say that law enforcement is not an alternative to real reform. More to the point, effective law enforcement is a requirement for reform to succeed.

ZIMBABWE

BBC Interviews Shamuyarira on Party Merger

MB241630 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 24 Mar 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There's renewed speculation in Zimbabwe about the possibility of a merger between Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU party and the ruling ZANU-PF. It follows the release in recent weeks of a number of ZAPU detainees and a rally at the weekend in Matabeleland at which Mr Nkomo and government minister and long-time rival Enos Nkala shared a platform to call for unity and an end to violence

On the line to Harare, Julian Marshall asked Zimbabwe's Information Minister Nathan Shamuyarira how important he thought the weekend meeting was.

[Begin recording] [Shamuyarira] Well, the meeting was held at the request of Mr Nkomo, but the important thing is that it was intended to show a combined effort in denouncing and thereby assisting to eliminate the menace of dissidents in Matabeleland. We on the government side have not been happy with the statements that ZAPU has been making on the question of dissidents. We have said they've not been denouncing them strongly and forcefully enough, so when Mr Nkomo suggested this meeting we agreed and it did serve that purpose because he denounced the dissidents very strongly and loudly at the meeting. So did Mr Nkala and Mr Munangagwa.

[Marshall] But do you think that the chances of a merger between the two parties are now that much closer?

[Shamuyarira] Well, the meeting should not be linked with the unity talks as such, but obviously if we can eliminate the dissidents that will bring the parties much closer together in Matabeleland, but we have to see the outcome, you know we have to see the outcome of that, but the meeting itself was not an exercise in the unity talks. Rather, it was an exercise in denouncing and eliminating the bandit elements.

[Marshall] But don't you think that the government perhaps has got a little way to go to winning the hearts and minds of the peoplein Matabeleland? I understand from some reports that there was a certain amount of heckling and a certain amount of hostility at this weekend meeting from some sections of the crowd who were asking for protection from the army.

[Shamuyarira] Well, we have some way to go, I agree, and we knew that before the meeting took place, but as there were ZAPU people at the meeting, as well as ZANU people, it is the ZAPU elements that tried to, you know, that made some noises against the security forces and so forth, but that was to be expected. But certainly I agree with you, there's some way to go.

[Marshall] Could I ask you: In recent weeks, Vote Moyo has been released — former secretary general of ZAPU — Lookout Masuku has been released. Are we likely to see the release of Dumiso Dabengwe, the former chief of staff of ZIPRA, in the coming weeks?

[Shamuyarira] Reviews are taking place, you know, all the time, and it was in fact such a review that led to the release of two men you have referred to, and I'm sure Dumiso Dabengwe's case will be reviewed from time to time. [end recording]